

Colombia, FARC Announce Talks

FRANK BAJAK

PAUL HAVEN

Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)

— Colombia and its main leftist rebel group said Tuesday they have signed an accord to launch peace talks next month aimed at ending a stubborn, half-century-old conflict that has claimed tens of thousands of lives.

In a nationally televised



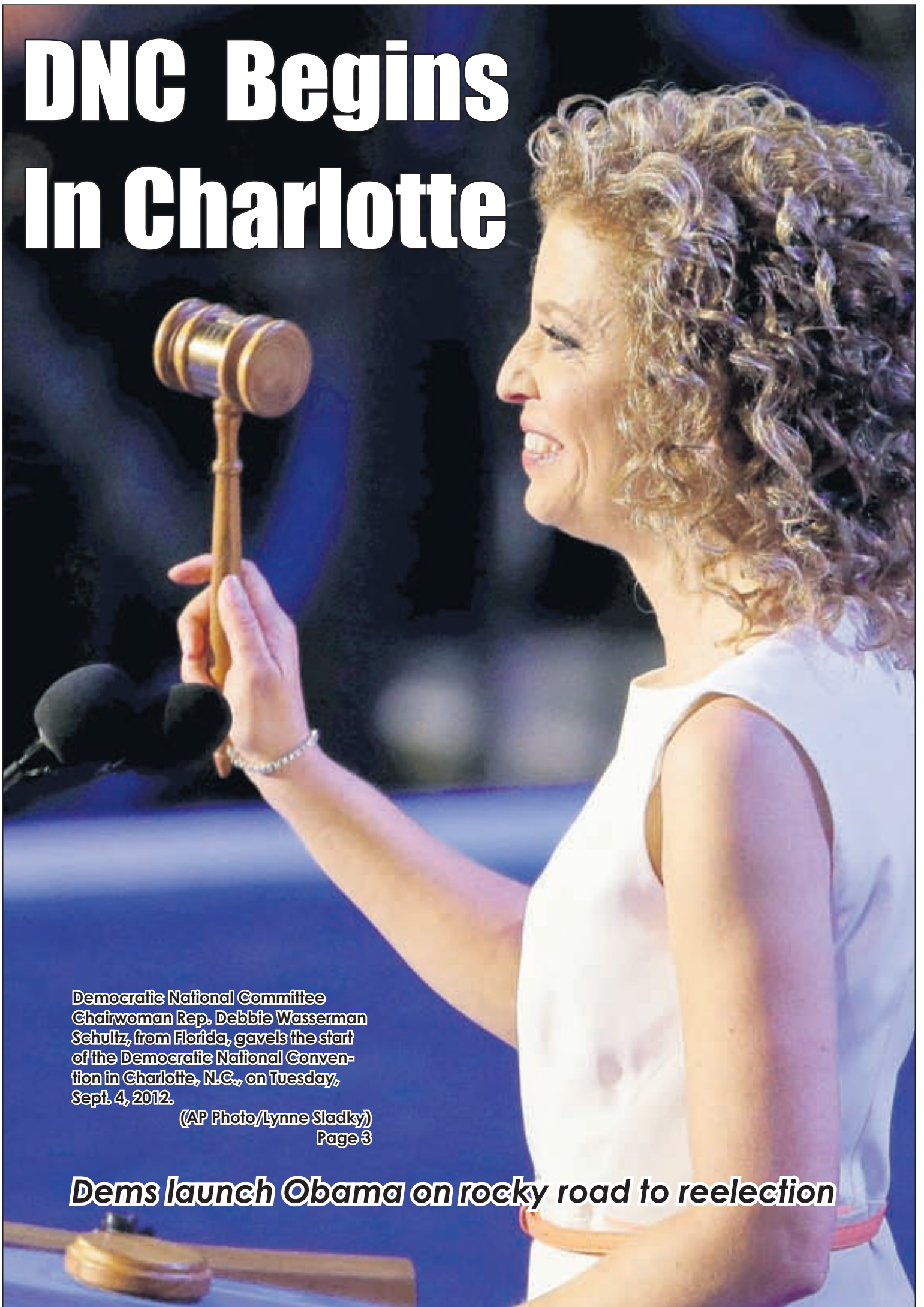
Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) commander Mauricio Jaramillo attends a press conference in Havana, Cuba, Tuesday, Sept. 4, 2012, to announce the start of talks to end the half-century-old conflict that has claimed tens of thousands of lives. (AP Photo/Ramon Espinosa)

speech, President Juan Manuel Santos called the pact a road map to "a definitive peace." It was reached after six months of direct talks in Cuba, with that country's government and Norway serving as brokers following a year and a half of preparatory work. The agreement, signed Aug. 27, does not include a cease-fire.

It also doesn't grant a safe haven to the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, as the last peace talks did.

Continued on Page 2

DNC Begins In Charlotte



Democratic National Committee Chairwoman Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, from Florida, gavels the start of the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, N.C., on Tuesday, Sept. 4, 2012.

(AP Photo/Lynne Sladky)
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Dems launch Obama on rocky road to reelection

Colombia, FARC announce accord to launch peace talks

Continued from front

They ended disastrously in 2002 after three years of negotiations with the hijacking of a commercial airliner that ended the patience of then-President Andres Pastrana. Operating from a Switzerland-sized safe haven in southern Colombia, the rebels had never ceased to wage war, kidnap and traffic in cocaine. Starting decades ago, the conflict has in essence been a class struggle distorted by the drug trade where the principal victims have been civilians.

The new attempt to end the Western Hemisphere's longest-running conflict will begin in the first half of October in Oslo, Norway, and continue in Havana. Venezuela and Chile will "accompany" the talks. How their roles will differ from those of Cuba and Norway was not explained.

Shortly after Santos spoke, the rebels held a news

conference in Havana and played a video of their 53-year-old commander, Timoleon Jimenez, who acknowledged the withering pressure from Colombia's

U.S.-backed military. The salt-and-pepper-bearded Jimenez, speaking from what appeared to be a jungle setting with a poster of the FARC's late

founder Manuel Marulanda behind him, issued an angry tirade against his country's military, calling its members "bloody-toothed vampires" who helped powerful multinationals "sack the country's riches." Jimenez excoriated the government for not ceding territory or agreeing to a cease-fire but said the rebels agreed to talk peace because the government agreed to discuss issues vital for the rebels including land restitution and rural development.

The FARC has recently been stepping up hit-and-run attacks but has also continued to suffer, especially in air raids by planes fitted with U.S. avionics and targeting systems. On the eve of the announcement, the military said at least seven guerrillas were killed in a raid early Monday. The FARC was born Marxist in 1964 but its rhetoric is more rooted in its peasant origins: Colombia has one of

the world's widest gulfs between rich and poor and its second-largest internally displaced population after Sudan.

The FARC numbers about 9,000 fighters, about half its strength a decade ago, when a military buildup started with the help of more than \$8 billion in U.S. aid and led to record desertions. Since 2008, three members of the FARC's ruling Secretariat have been killed in military raids, including Jimenez's predecessor, Alfonso Cano. He died in November 2011, a little more than a year after Santos took office.

Santos said the latest peace talks, the fourth with the FARC in three decades, are different because their "realistic agenda" includes the FARC agreeing to eventually lay down its arms and enter political life.

Other Colombian rebel movements, most notably the M-19 in 1990, have done that successfully. □



In this photo released by Colombia's Presidential Office, President Juan Manuel Santos, left, shakes hands with his Defense Minister Juan Carlos Pinzon as other cabinet ministers surround him after he announced the signing of a preliminary agreement to launch peace talks with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, a nationally televised speech from the presidential palace in Bogota, Tuesday, Sept. 4, 2011. Santos said the talks would begin in early October in Oslo, Norway, and would continue in Havana, Cuba.

(AP Photo/Javier Casella, CPO)

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Dems launch Obama on rocky road to reelection

Associated Press
CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AP) — Democrats launched President Barack Obama on his uncertain bid for re-election as they opened their national convention Tuesday. They looked to help Obama recapture the hearts of Americans once drawn to his message of hope and change, but now weary after years of economic weakness and political squabbles. The nationally televised, three-day convention puts Democrats in the spotlight, allowing them to depict Obama as a courageous, compassionate leader who has put the United States on the right track after inheriting a brutal recession. They will seek to counter attacks made at last week's Re-

publican convention and cast rival Mitt Romney, a wealthy businessman and former Massachusetts governor, as distant, privileged and out-of-touch with common Americans. The star speaker Tuesday, first lady Michelle Obama, drew a contrast, at least implicitly, with Romney by highlighting her husband's more humble background. She told an interviewer earlier Tuesday that she was "going to take folks back to the man he was before he was president." Polls show Obama and Romney locked in a tight race ahead of the November vote. Romney is seen as the better candidate for improving the economy, the biggest issue in the race. But Obama is seen as more likable.

Candidates traditionally get a bounce in the polls from political conventions, though there is little sign that Romney improved his standing. Once dramatic

events for selecting candidates and debating issues, political conventions are now carefully scripted shows put on by the parties with little spontaneity —

making them less compelling programming for television viewers. Tuesday's other major speaker during prime television time was San Antonio Mayor Julian Castro, who was delivering the high-profile keynote address. A rising star in the party, Castro is of Mexican-American descent and his selection highlights the importance given to Hispanic voters in the race. Castro, in excerpts of the speech released in advance, said Obama "knows better than anyone there's more hard work to do." He said the United States is making progress "despite incredible odds and united Republican opposition." He said Republican economic theories have been tested and failed. "Mitt Romney just doesn't get it," he said. □



House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, center, and the women from the House of Representatives waves after speaking at the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, N.C., on Tuesday, Sept. 4, 2012.

(AP Photo/Lynne Sladky)

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Bill Clinton, Obama set aside rivalry for election

BETH FOUHY

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AP) —

When Bill Clinton takes the Democratic National Convention stage Wednesday to praise President Barack Obama, it will be the most visible step on a path toward reconciliation for two former rivals.

That Obama would choose the former president for such a high-profile speaking spot, and that Clinton would accept, seemed unfathomable in 2008, when the two clashed bitterly during the showdown between Obama and Hillary Rodham Clinton for the Democratic nomination.

Even though Hillary Clinton now serves as Obama's secretary of state, resentments between the current

and former presidents have been slow to ease. But now, with Obama locked in a tight race with Republican Mitt Romney, the president has embraced Clinton as a political partner in hopes of capturing Clinton's knack for political survival against tough odds.

"President Clinton has an economic record second to none," Obama campaign manager Jim Messina said at a briefing Tuesday. "He's a very credible messenger ... he's going to deliver a very compelling speech."

Obama called Clinton in July and asked him to give the speech that would place the president's name in nomination. Clinton accepted enthusiastically, aides to both men said.



President Barack Obama listens as former President Bill Clinton speaks in the briefing room of the White House in Washington. When Bill Clinton takes the convention stage to endorse Barack Obama later this week, it will be a landmark step on a path to reconciliation for two former rivals whose political fortunes are now inextricably tied. By embracing Clinton, Obama hopes to capture the former president's uncanny knack for political survival against tough odds. And it doesn't hurt that the economy and the nation's budget picture last truly soared under Clinton.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

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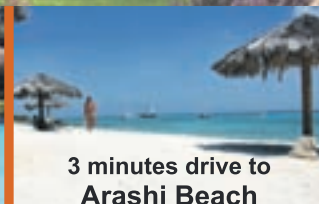
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The new relationship brings Clinton back to the national political forefront and lends Obama the validation of the Democratic Party's most popular elder statesman.

Clinton stars in an Obama campaign commercial currently running in key battleground states, suggesting that Romney would return the country to George W. Bush-era economic policies while affirming Obama's approach that he says mirrors his own.

"President Obama has a plan to rebuild America from the ground up," Clinton says, adding, "That's what happened when I was president."

With the U.S. economic recovery still tepid and unemployment stubbornly high, many voters remember Clinton's tenure as a period of prosperity. The economy added some 22 million new jobs during his two terms in the White House from January 1993 to the start of 2001, and Clinton left office with a balanced federal budget and surplus.

Democrats hope Clinton's support might influence constituencies Obama has struggled to win over.

A recent Fox News poll found a nearly 20-point gap among white voters for the two men. Clinton is viewed favorably by 61 percent of

white voters, Obama by 42 percent. Among independents, just 46 percent have a favorable view of Obama, while 64 percent view Clinton favorably.

For his part, Clinton needs Obama to win in November to preserve his own legacy. "From President Clinton's perspective, if Romney were elected he'd repeal everything Clinton ever did and everything he wants to advance," longtime Clinton adviser Paul Begala said. Begala also serves as senior adviser for Priorities USA Action, an independent group supporting Obama's re-election that has struggled to compete financially with Republican-leaning groups. Clinton did his first event for the group in August. His assistance helped the group raise about \$10 million in August, its best monthly haul.

Clinton hasn't always been a model supporter for the Obama campaign.

The former president once praised Romney's "sterling" business credentials at Bain Capital, the private equity firm where Romney amassed a large fortune. The remark contradicted the Obama campaign's effort to paint the Republican nominee as a plutocrat who cares more about generating profits than creating jobs. □

Romney, Republicans raise \$100 million in August

JACK GILLUM
THOMAS BEAUMONT
Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican Mitt Romney's presidential campaign has raised at least \$100 million for the third consecutive month, building upon support that has allowed him to outraise President Barack Obama so far this summer, The Associated Press has learned. The early numbers for August, which include money raised by the national Republican Party, will be publicly released next week. They were described by two people familiar with the figures who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to share internal campaign matters. The numbers were revealed on the first day of the Dem-

ocratic National Convention, where delegates will nominate Obama for a second term.

Federal records show that Romney and the Republicans have pulled in more cash than Obama's re-

challenger to raise more money than an incumbent holding a major elective office, particularly in a presidential race. Obama and the Democratic Party have not released their August fundraising figures. An Obama campaign spokesman declined to comment Tuesday. The August figures exclude tens of millions of dollars that independent "super" political action committees are pouring into the race to help Romney. Those groups have been largely bankrolled by wealthy Americans, thanks to changes in recent years to campaign-finance regulations that allow far larger donations. Money is a crucial bellwether in presidential campaigns. □



Republican vice presidential candidate, Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., speaks during a campaign event at Kirkwood Community College, Tuesday, Sept. 4, 2012 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

(AP Photo/Mary Altaffer)

While once a record-breaker — Obama raised a remarkable \$750 million four years ago — the president's advisers are now publicly acknowledging he will likely be outspent.

election effort in May, June and July, including money collected by the Democratic Party. It is usually difficult for a

Report: Disabled boy not allowed to board US plane

GOSIA WOZNIACKA
Associated Press
FRESNO, California (AP) — A California family who was not allowed to board their cross-country flight said Tuesday that they were discriminated against because their son has Down syndrome. Robert Vanderhorst, his wife Joan and 16-year-old son Bede, who is disabled, were flying on American Airlines from Newark to Los Angeles on Sunday when the boy and his parents were not allowed on the plane. The family, who had upgraded to first class tickets at an airport kiosk, asked the airline to seat the boy and one of his parents together, Vanderhorst said — a request with which the airline complied. When the family was ready to board, they were stopped by airline personnel, told their son was a "security risk" and would not be allowed on the flight. They protested, but were rebooked on another later flight in coach. American Airlines spokesman Matt Miller said the disabled boy was agitated

and running around the gate area prior to boarding — a claim his parents dispute. The airplane's pilot observed the boy, Miller said, and made the call based on his behavior. "He was not ready to fly, that was our perspective," Miller said. "We rebooked the family out of concern for the young man's safety and that of other passengers as well." But Vanderhorst said his son did not run at any time, did not make any loud noises and didn't display any other offensive behaviors. The boy walked around with him or sat quietly in the gate area, Vanderhorst said. A cell phone video captured by the boy's mother shows Bede sitting and quietly playing with a baseball cap. Vanderhorst said Bede is very charming in contact with other people. The family has flown more than two dozen times with him, without any difficulties. "Usually my son gets his snack and falls asleep, just like most people," Vanderhorst said. □

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States searching for Libor losses

NATHANIEL POPPER

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The scandal over global interest rates has state officials like Janet Cowell of North Carolina working intensely behind the scenes to build a case for suing the nation's largest banks.

Cowell, the state's elected treasurer, and several of her staff members have spent the summer combing through the state's investments trying to determine how much the state may have lost because of suspected manipulation of the London Interbank Offered Rate, or Libor, which is used as a benchmark for trillions of dollars of financial contracts.

"We think this could be as big as the mortgage crisis settlement, that this could be a really high impact situation and that we should be aggressive on this," Cowell said, referring to the \$25 billion settlement that the nation's biggest banks entered with state attorneys general.

The activity provides a glimpse at how widely the Libor scandal has spread, and how much damage may still be in store for the banks accused of manipulating Libor. Her work also suggests just how difficult it is, and how long it may take, to get to the bottom of the losses.

The attorneys general in Maryland, Massachusetts, New York and Connecticut have all been examining how much their states may have lost as a result of a lowered Libor. A spokeswoman for Connecticut's attorney general, George

C. Jepsen, said that the state's work with New York's attorney general, Eric T. Schneiderman, "has broadened significantly over the last few weeks and we are now coordinating with a much larger group of attorneys general."

Even before the British bank Barclays admitted in June that its employees tried to

The government officials are hoping that their cases will be bolstered by a new settlements between regulators and individual banks that are suspected of participating in the manipulation of Libor. Most of the more than one dozen banks involved in setting Libor have said in official filings that they are in discus-



Janet Cowell, North Carolina's state treasurer, speaks with Jim McIntire, the Washington State treasurer, before the Democratic National Convention at the University of North Carolina in Charlotte, N.C., Sept. 4, 2012. Cowell's attempt to determine how much the state may have lost as a result of rigged rates, provides a glimpse at how widely the Libor scandal has spread through the financial world, and how much damage may still be in store for the banks accused of manipulating Libor. (Peter W. Stevenson/The New York Times)

manipulate Libor, there were a number of lawsuits filed by cities and municipal agencies seeking damages from large banks for manipulating the rate. But while those cases were filed by private sector lawyers, the public officials are looking at bringing more wide-ranging lawsuits on behalf of the states. The Justice Department has coordinated with the states and is leading its own investigation.

sions with regulators about their involvement in the Libor process.

The Libor is supposed to represent how much banks are paying for short-term loans from other banks. It is determined by the British Bankers Association after a daily poll of the world's largest banks. It then serves as a benchmark for rates paid by consumers and businesses on everything from mortgages to derivatives to student loans. □

Police: NJ boy, 6, killed saving sister in attack

By KATIE ZEZIMA

PATRICK WALTERS

Associated Press

CAMDEN, N.J. (AP) — A 6-year-old boy whose throat was slashed by an intruder high on PCP-laced marijuana was killed trying to save his sister, coming to her aid as she was being assaulted on the floor, prosecutors said Tuesday.

Osvaldo Rivera, who is charged in Sunday's middle-of-the-night attack, sobbed during an appearance Tuesday in court in which bail was set at \$5 million.

During an interrogation, Rivera had asked: "How bad did I hurt them?" assistant prosecutor Christine Shah said during the hearing.

The attack early Sunday was the second time in less than two weeks that prosecutors say a Camden resident apparently high on PCP had killed a child.

On Aug. 22, a Camden woman decapitated her 2-year-old son, called 911 to admit stabbing the child, then killed herself.

Authorities said they are going to test PCP on the street to see what might be behind the outbursts of violence. The drug can make users hallucinatory and incoherent, police said.

The 31-year-old Rivera admitted he smoked "wet," a combination of marijuana and PCP, before the killing, police said. In the decapitation case, authorities said that preliminary tests showed the woman had PCP in her system and that they believed she had also smoked wet.

New details in the more recent attack were revealed after authorities interviewed the girl, 12, whose windpipe had been slashed but whose condition was upgraded from critical to stable. She ran out of the house and sought help after her brother intervened.

Both children had been sleeping downstairs when the assault began, police said.

The girl also said she had been raped by the attacker, Shah said at the court hearing.

Rivera, who did not enter a plea, is charged with murder and attempted murder, but prosecutors said more charges will be filed. Authorities said he had a drug arrest in 2009 but no other convictions. He did not yet have an attorney Tuesday.

The Associated Press is not naming the slain 6-year-old to avoid identifying his sister, who says she is a victim of sexual assault.

The 12-year-old was able to help police track down the attacker by identifying him as what sounded like "Poppy." Investigators learned Rivera was known by the nickname "Popeye" and had spent nights at an apartment in the area of the city.

Police found him hiding between a mattress and bedroom wall in the apartment. □

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Election 2012: How the party platforms differ

MICHAEL COOPER

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Voters are forever being told that they face stark choices. But the platform

"the union of one man and one woman."

When it comes to Medicare, the Democratic platform says the party

divides them on so many issues. The Democratic platform says that "this election is not simply a choice between two candidates

speech to delegates Tuesday. "It's patriotism."

The Democratic platform sometimes reads more like a look back than a road map of what the party would do over the next four years. Many paragraphs are devoted to putting President Barack Obama's record in the most flattering light possible. The platform mentions that 4.5 million private-sector jobs have been created in the United States since "early 2010" – a time period that ignores the steep job losses of 2009. If the platform had started counting in January 2009, the month Obama took office, it would have found

that 332,000 private-sector jobs had been created.

Some of this year's planks serve as reminders of the unfulfilled pledges from the Democratic Party's 2008 platform.

That platform, echoing a promise Obama had made as a candidate, said, "We will close the detention camp in Guantanamo Bay, the location of so many of the worst constitutional abuses in recent years." As president, though, Obama has failed to deliver on that promise, so the 2012 platform says "we are substantially reducing the population at Guantanamo Bay without adding to it." □



Anti-abortion protesters demonstrate in Washington. The Democratic Party platform released Sept. 4, 2012 offers a stark contrast to the Republican one adopted the week before, especially on abortion rights, gay marriage and the future of Medicare and Social Security.

(Luke Sharrett/The New York Times)

that Democrats approved Tuesday at their convention in Charlotte, N.C., was, in areas from social issues to entitlements, a mirror image of the platform that the Republicans adopted last week in Tampa, Fla.

The Democratic platform supports same-sex marriage for the first time – "We support marriage equality and support the movement to secure equal treatment under law for same-sex couples," it reads – and reaffirms the party's support for abortion rights. The Republican platform, in contrast, supports the passage of constitutional amendments that would ban abortion and define marriage as

will oppose "any efforts to privatize or voucherize" the program, while the Republican platform would reshape the program for those under 55 so they would get "an income-adjusted contribution toward a health plan of the enrollee's choice," including a government plan. And while the Democratic platform opposes any privatization of Social Security, the Republican platform says younger workers should be given the option of "personal investment accounts as supplements to the system."

If there is one thing the two parties agree on this year, it is the size of the chasm that

or two political parties, but between two fundamentally different paths for our country and our families." The Republican platform calls the 2012 elections "a referendum on the future of liberty in America." Mayor Cory Booker of Newark, N.J., a platform committee chairman, emphasized its call for a "balanced approach" to deficit reduction, including raising taxes on the wealthy. "When your country is in a costly war, with our soldiers sacrificing abroad, and our nation is facing a debt crisis at home, being asked to pay your fair share isn't class warfare," he said in his

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Clinton seeks Chinese accord on South China Sea

MATTHEW LEE

Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton is in Beijing to press Chinese authorities to agree to peacefully resolve disputes with their smaller neighbors over competing territorial claims in the South China Sea. But as she began her meetings here, China questioned the stated neutrality of the United States.

Clinton met late Tuesday with Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi after arriving in China from Indonesia, where she urged Southeast Asian nations to present a unified front in dealing with China in attempts to ease rising tensions in the South China Sea. Clinton will meet on Wednesday with other top Chinese officials, including President Hu Jintao and State Councillor Dai Bingguo. The U.S. wants China and the other claimants to adopt a binding code of conduct for the region, along with a process to resolve maritime disputes without coercion, intimidation or the use of force. Clinton wants the Chinese to drop their insistence on settling conflicting claims with individual nations and instead embrace a multi-lateral mechanism that will give the smaller members of the Association of South East Asian Nations greater clout in negotiations. She urged all parties to make "meaningful progress" by a November



U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, left, and Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi, talk at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Beijing Tuesday, Sept. 4, 2012. Clinton is in Beijing to press Chinese authorities to agree to peacefully resolve disputes with their smaller neighbors over competing territorial claims in the South China Sea.

(AP Photo/Jim Watson, Pool)

summit of East Asian leaders that President Barack Obama plans to attend in Cambodia..

In Indonesia's capital before heading to China, Clinton offered strong U.S. support for a regionally

endorsed plan to ease rising tensions by implementing the code of conduct. Jakarta is the headquarters of ASEAN, and Clinton pressed the group to insist that China agree to deal with them as a bloc.

The stance puts the U.S. squarely at odds with China, which has become more aggressive in pressing its territorial claims with its smaller neighbors and wants the disputes to be resolved with each country, giving it greater leverage. Clinton made her case in Jakarta on Tuesday in meetings with Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and ASEAN secretary general Surin Pitsuwan, a day after she delivered the same message to Indonesian Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa.

Indonesia has played a leading role in putting the six-point plan together after ASEAN was unable to reach consensus on the matter in July.

Clinton said the U.S. is "encouraged" by the

plan but wants it acted on — particularly implementation and enforcement of the code of conduct, which has languished since a preliminary framework for it was first agreed upon in 2002. .

"The United States has a national interest, as every country does, in the maintenance of peace and stability, respect for international law, freedom of navigation, unimpeded lawful commerce in the South China Sea," Clinton told reporters at a news conference with Natalegawa.

"The United States does not take a position on competing territorial claims... but we believe the nations of the region should work collaboratively to resolve disputes without coercion, without intimidation and certainly without the use of force," she said. □

UN Chief: Both sides in Syria violating human rights

EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon accused both the Syrian government and the opposition Tuesday of large-scale human rights violations, including torturing and reportedly executing prisoners and failing to protect civilians fleeing the war-ravaged country in record numbers.

In an address to the U.N.

General Assembly, Ban demanded that those responsible for violating international humanitarian and human rights laws be held accountable.

The U.N. chief went before the 193-nation world body to report on an intensifying conflict that he said has taken "a particularly brutal turn." He warned that "the entire region is being engulfed by the complex dynamics of the conflict."

Activists say the civil war

has claimed between 23,000 and 26,000 lives.

The U.N. refugee agency said Tuesday that more than 100,000 Syrians fled their country in August, the highest monthly total since the crisis began in March 2011. A total of 234,368 Syrians have fled to neighboring countries in the past 17 months, the agency said.

Ban said more than 2.5 million people inside Syria need assistance, along with those who have fled to Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq. He urged donors to come forward, saying the U.N. appeal for \$180 million is only half-funded.

The U.N. chief accused Syrian forces of indiscriminately shelling densely populated areas with heavy weapons, tanks and military aircraft and

urged both sides — but especially President Bashar Assad's government — to end the fighting.

Ban lamented that civilians are bearing the brunt of the violence, saying even people in bread lines have been attacked.

"Prisoners on both sides are subject to harsh treatment and, often, torture," he said. "There have been alarming reports of summary executions on both sides."

He added, "government forces and the armed opposition have clearly failed to protect civilians and respect the rules of international humanitarian law."

The U.N. chief urged the world to unite behind a plan to end the conflict.

Missing in all international initiatives so far, Ban said, "is a unity of effort that will have an impact on the ground." □

The Promenade
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Islamists installed in Egypt's institutions

MAGGIE MICHAEL
Associated Press
CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's Islamist leadership took a new move Tuesday to put its stamp on the country's government, appointing members of the fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood as provincial governors and installing ultraconservatives and other Islamists in the state's top human rights body and a powerful media council.

The shake-up was the latest step by President Mohammed Morsi and his Muslim Brotherhood to reshape state institutions that were long the monopoly of ousted autocrat Hosni Mubarak, his ruling party and the military that backed him.

Supporters have praised the moves as part of a drive to cleanse the system of Mubarak loyalists after Morsi was inaugurated in late June as the country's first freely elected president. But the heavy infusion of Islamists into government institutions has raised fears of Brotherhood domination monopolizing power as much as Mubarak did and moving Egypt into a more religious rule. The governorships of Egypt's 27 provinces have long been prime posts for solidifying the president's power. The governors are appointed by the president and generally implement his policies. Under Mubarak, the positions went to retired military generals or ruling party loyalists. On Tuesday, Morsi's office announced 10 new governors. □

Booed in public, Cameron sticks to austerity drive

DAVID STRINGER
Associated Press
LONDON (AP) — The public's verdict was clear: Prime Minister David Cameron and Treasury chief George Osborne faced a chorus of boos at London's Paralympic Games — a rare flash of hostility toward their belief that a sharp austerity drive is the best way to repair Britain's debt-ravaged economy.

Anger is mounting amid a grueling four-year program of cuts to public sector jobs and welfare payments, which Osborne has conceded will need to be extended by at least two years and which some opponents worry has fueled Britain's slump into its first recession since 2009.

Seeking to win back support and boost his prospects before the 2015 national election, Cameron on Tuesday made the first major overhaul of his Cabinet and 100-strong ministerial

team since taking office in 2010. While Cameron left most senior allies in place, he sought to sharpen his economic message by promoting a crop of young fiscal conservatives, and looked to exploit the success of the Olympic Games in appointing Paul Deighton, chief executive of the London organizing committee,



British Prime Minister David Cameron cheers at the 2012 Paralympics in London. (AP Photo / Emilio Morenatti)

as a new finance minister. Osborne — architect of the unpopular 81 billion pounds (\$130 billion) in budget trimming — gave an uncomfortable smile late Monday as he faced loud heckles at a Paralympic Games medal ceremony. Cameron, meanwhile, heard both boos and cheers when his image was shown on a jumbo screen inside the

Aquatics Center. The outbursts were rare amid the upbeat mood of Britain's summer of sports but underscored resentment over cuts to welfare payments, particularly a program assessing whether those who receive disability payments should continue to be eligible.

"When people were first told that there would be cuts to benefits and tax rises over the next five years, they seemed to accept it. Now that those cuts are starting to bite, people are beginning to complain," said Victoria Honeyman, an expert on British politics at the University of Leeds.

In another indication of the country's mood, Britain's ex-Prime Minister Gordon Brown — the former Labour Party leader who was hugely unpopular while in office and defeated in the May 2010 election — was cheered during an appearance at the Paralympics. □



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matinee:				
late show:	11:45			
PREMIUM RUSH	5:00	7:15	9:30	PG-13
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late show:	12:30	2:45		NEW
PARANORMAN 3D				PG
daily:				
matinee:	12:45	3:00		
late show:				
STEP UP REVOLUTION 3D	5:00	7:30	9:45	PG-13
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late show:	12:00			
THE ODD LIFE OF TIMOTHY GREEN	4:00	5:15	2:45	PG
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HOPE SPRINGS	4:30			
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matinee:	12:00	2:15		
late show:				

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HOPE SPRINGS	4:15			
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THE WATCH	7:15	9:30		R
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matinee:				
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Matinee: sat & sun | Late show: fri & sat

Dutch election campaign targeting pro-marijuana voters

MIKE CORDER

Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands

(AP) — With slogans like "Don't let your vote go up in smoke!", owners of the free-wheeling cafes where bags of hashish are sold alongside cups of coffee are mounting a get-out-the-stoner-vote campaign ahead of next week's Dutch election.

The campaigners are calling on their sometimes apathetic dope smoking clientele to get out and support political parties that oppose the recently introduced "weed pass" that is intended to rein in the cafes known as coffee shops and close them altogether to foreign tourists.

At a coffee shop in The Hague, a member of staff selling weed wears a T-shirt emblazoned with a modified Uncle Sam style poster calling on smokers to "Vote against the weed pass on Sept. 12." Under the new system, coffee shops become member-only clubs and only Dutch residents can apply for a pass to get in.

The cafes are limited to a maximum of 2,000 members.

The online vote2smoke.nl campaign offers cannabis and marijuana users voting advice by showing which political parties support dumping the "weed pass," which came into force in the southern Netherlands earlier this year and is in-

tended to roll out over the whole country in coming years.

Joep Oomen of the legalize cannabis movement says it is hard to know exactly how big the pot-smoking constituency is, but he estimates it at around half a million

One champion of the smokers' lobby is Socialist Party leader Emile Roemer, a jovial 50-year-old former teacher whose party is expected to make significant gains at the Sept. 12 election.

Speaking at a campaign

onto the streets and out of the controlled environment of the coffee shops — "so stop the wietpas," he said, using its Dutch name.

Jerome Croonenberg, enjoying a joint at The Hut coffee shop in a side street close to the Dutch par-

The center-left Labor Party, which is surging in pre-election polls thanks to strong performances by its leader Diederik Samsom in televised debates, also advocates scrapping the pass and replacing it with legislation that would further enshrine tolerance of marijuana in Dutch law and regulate not only coffee shops but also growers.

However, the coffee shops still have a fight on their hands — the conservative VVD party of outgoing prime minister Mark Rutte is topping polls and looks set to become the biggest single party.

It was a VVD-led coalition that introduced the weed pass and it is standing by the policy.

If Rutte winds up negotiating a centrist coalition, all parties would likely be willing to bend or drop their position on the pass in favor of other policy goals.

Coffee shops have long been tolerated in the Netherlands because authorities believe they keep dope smokers away from street dealers of more dangerous and outlawed drugs like cocaine and heroin.

The cafes have become tourist magnets in Amsterdam, but Rutte's government clamped down on them because they are blamed for crime, traffic and parking problems in towns and cities close to the Dutch borders with Germany and Belgium. □



A worker at Cafe Cremers coffee shop in The Hague, Netherlands, who does not want to be identified, wears a T-shirt urging people to vote against the country's "weed pass" system in the upcoming Sept. 12 election. With slogans like "Don't let your vote go up in smoke!", owners of the free-wheeling cafes where bags of hashish are sold alongside cups of coffee are mounting a get-out-the-stoner-vote campaign to encourage the drugged up stoned voters ahead of next week's Dutch election. The campaigners are calling on their sometimes apathetic dope smoking clientele to get out and support political parties that oppose the recently introduced "weed pass" that is intended to rein in the cafes.

(AP Photo/ Mike Corder)

people in this nation of 16 million.

Basically the advice to them boils down to this: Voting for any political party on the left is good, and any party on the right is bad.

event this weekend, Roemer called the weed pass "incredibly stupid" and vowed to scrap it if he wins power.

He said the pass system simply pushes drug dealers

liament building, said he would be voting for Roemer because of his coffee shop policy.

"I will vote to keep coffee shops open so I can keep smoking," he said Tuesday.

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Colombia's 'Queen of Cocaine' shot dead in Medellin

BOGOTA (AP) — Griselda Blanco, a convicted drug trafficker who was once known as the "Godmother" and the "Queen of Cocaine," has been shot to death by an unidentified gunman, police in Colombia said Tuesday.

Col. Mauricio Cartagena of Medellin's metropolitan police said Tuesday that the 69-year-old was killed at a

butcher shop in the city on Monday.

Cartagena said a man approached Blanco at the shop and fired before escaping on a motorcycle driven by another man. She died on her way to the hospital.

He said the police hadn't identified a firm motive for the killing.

"We don't know why they

killed her, but the first hypothesis would be revenge or a settling of accounts," Cartagena said, referring to her past involvement in drug trafficking. Blanco had no charges pending against her in her native Colombia, he added.

Blanco was among the first Colombian women to traffic cocaine to the United States in the 1970s and 1980s. She had been deported back to Colombia in 2004 after serving nearly 20 years behind bars in the United States for drug trafficking and three drug-related killings.

She served three concurrent sentence after pleading no contest in 1998 to second-degree murder charges. Authorities said Blanco arranged three

contract killings in 1982 that took the lives of toddler Johnny Castro, 2, and drug dealers Alfredo and Grisel Lorenzo.



This booking mug shows Griselda Blanco, a convicted drug trafficker who was once known as the "Godmother" and the "Queen of Cocaine," has been shot to death by an unidentified gunman, police in Colombia said Tuesday, Sept. 4, 2012. (AP Photo)

The child died when bullets meant for his father, Jesus Castro, hit the boy instead, police said. She already had been serving prison time for cocaine trafficking when she entered her plea in the killings.

U.S. authorities have described Blanco as a charter member of the "cocaine cowboys" who engaged in drug trafficking, contract killings and gangland shootouts in South Florida in the 1980s. She was also once known for her love of shopping and beauty salons.

Blanco was reportedly a fan of the film "The Godfather," naming one of her sons Michael Corleone, the name of the character played by Al Pacino in the film. □

Mexico: Attack on a U.S. embassy car an accident

**M. WEISSENSTEIN
OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ**

MEXICO CITY (AP) — High-ranking Mexican security officials are portraying the shooting of two CIA agents by Mexican federal police as a well-intentioned mishap rather than a deliberate attack.

A series of military and law-enforcement officials have emphasized in public statements over the last three days that the group of 12 federal police was investigating a kidnapping when they encountered the two U.S. agents and a Mexican marine captain and opened fire on their armored sport-utility vehicle.

U.S. and Mexican statements released on the day of the shooting contained few details, excluding mention of the kidnapping probe. As a result, they left open the possibility that it could have been a deliberate attack on the Americans by corrupt officers or a gross error by well-intentioned but trigger-happy police conducting legitimate work in a dangerous rural area outside the city of Cuernavaca.

Mexican officials declined to elaborate for more than a week after the shooting, but now appear to be trying to be making a case for the accidental scenario.

Navy Secretary Mariano Francisco Saynez told reporters after President Felipe Calderon's last state-of-the-union address on Monday that the attack "was an error and not a malicious act." The statement carried particular significance coming from the highest-ranking officer in the navy, the military branch that includes the marines.

Interior Minister Alejandro Poire said Tuesday that federal police officials were investigating a kidnapping that had taken place a day earlier near the scene of the shooting. He wouldn't give any other details Tuesday "out of respect for the kidnapping victim."

The assertion that the officers were investigating a specific crime around the village of Tres Marias would appear to undercut the idea suggested by some experts that they had gone there knowingly targeting the U.S. agents and marine captain.

Federal Police regional security chief Luis Cardenas Palomino also told reporters over the weekend that agents were investigating a kidnapping before the shooting. □

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Exodus from Spain as economic gloom deepens

LANDON THOMAS JR.
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LONDON — It is, Julio Vildosola concedes, a very big bet.

After working six years as a senior executive for a multinational payroll-processing company in Barcelona, Spain, Vildosola is cutting his professional and financial ties with his troubled homeland. He has moved his family to a village near Cambridge, England, where he will take the reins at a small software company, and he has transferred his savings from Spanish banks to British banks.

"The macro situation in Spain is getting worse and

worse," Vildosola, 38, said last week just hours before boarding a plane to London with his wife and two small children. "There is just too much risk. Spain is going to be next after Greece, and I just don't want to end up holding devalued pesetas."

Vildosola is among many who worry that Spain's economic tailspin could eventually force the country's withdrawal from the euro and a return to its former currency, the peseta. That dire outcome is still considered a long shot, even if Spain might eventually require a Greek-style bailout. But there is no

doubt that many of those in a position to do so are taking their money — and in some cases themselves —

elite who are fed up with the lack of job opportunities in a country where the unemployment rate touch-

of panic," said Jose Garcia Montalvo, an economist at Pompeu Fabra University in Barcelona. "The wealthy people have already taken their money out. Now it's the professionals and midrange people who are moving their money to Germany and London. The mood is very, very bad."

It is possible that the outlook could improve if the European Central Bank's governing council, which meets Thursday, signals a plan to help shore up the finances of Spain and other eurozone laggards by intervening in the bond markets.

But right now, if anything, Spain's picture is growing dimmer.

On Friday, the government's bank rescue fund said it would need to pump up to 5 billion euros as soon as possible into the failed mortgage-lending giant Bankia, which the state seized in May. And on Monday, Andalusia became the latest of Spain's semi-autonomous regions to ask the central government for rescue money.

The wider prospects for the eurozone are also still bleak. Moody's Investors Service said Monday that it had changed its outlook on the AAA rating of the European Union to negative, and that it might downgrade the rating if it decides to cut the ratings on the union's four largest budget contributors.

Spain's gathering gloom comes despite a gradual return of capital to banks in Greece and the relative stability of deposits in those other eurozone trouble spots, Italy, Ireland and Portugal. □



Julio and Eva Vildosola, of Spain, and their two children Pablo and Jamie, unpacking their belongings at their new home in Buckden, England, Sept. 1, 2012. While the situation in Spain is not as dire as that of Greece, some Spaniards are taking their euros, and sometimes themselves and their families, out of the country. (Warrick Page/The New York Times)

out of Spain.

In July, Spaniards withdrew a record 75 billion euros, or \$94 billion, from their banks — an amount equal to 7 percent of the country's overall economic output — as doubts grew about the durability of Spain's financial system.

The withdrawals accelerated a trend that began in the middle of last year, and came despite a European commitment to pump up to 100 billion euros into the Spanish banking system. Analysts will be watching to see whether the August data, when available, show an even faster rate of capital flight.

More disturbing for Spain is that the flight is starting to include members of its educated and entrepreneurial

es 25 percent.

According to official statistics, 30,000 Spaniards registered to work in Britain in the last year, and analysts say that this figure would be many multiples higher if workers without documents were counted.

That is a 25 percent increase from a year earlier. While the estimated number of Spanish-born people now living in Britain may still be fewer than 100,000 — far below the 300,000 or more French-born people in Britain — the Spanish are the second-fastest-growing immigrant group after Greeks. The influx from Greece grew by 53 percent in the last year, according to the Department for Work and Pensions in Britain.

"No doubt there is a little bit

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WILLEMSTAD .- Last weekend Curaçao got the chance to enjoy one of the biggest musical festivals of the year; the Curaçao North Sea Jazz (CNSJ).

The crowd was entertained by some of the biggest names in the musical industry like; Alicia Keys, Carlos Santana, musical group Mana, Marc Anthony, Tito Nieves, Jose Albert 'El Canario', Jill Scott and much more. After the festival Renaissance Curaçao Resort held its tra-

ditional private 'After Jam Sessions' which was attended by artists, musicians and special guests who came together to continue the musical celebration. During the event musicians improvise and create sweet sounds.

The 'After Jam Sessions' crowd grows bigger and bigger every year. This year the musicians of Alicia Keys, Carlos Santana and Jill Scott rocked the crowd while the popular India Irie was also enjoying the vibe. □



At Tierra del Sol Golf Course:

Ray Perez wins the 4th round of the Heritage Cup!

WEST PUNT – Ray Perez was the hero of the day last Saturday, when he jumped into the lead in the race for the Heritage Cup, at Tierra del Sol, Golf Resort, Spa & Country Club.

Professionals Adam Williamson and James Kiley for a photo opportunity with sponsor Clifton Ling, of Ling & Sons Super Center. Closest to the pin winners for the day were Maurice Janssen, Ray Perez, Orlan-



Second place winner Carla Schipper with 37 points and close third by way of score-card playoff Cisco Quant with 36 points, joined Golf

do Rasmijn, Herbie Burchfield & Nigel Nedd, who all received generous gift certificates from Aruba's most popular food market.



The 5th and final Heritage Cup event for 2012 will be held on October 13th, pitching the top 30 participants in the point rankings,

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Carol Terry honored by ATA at the Manchebo Beach Resort



Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very nice woman, who is a loyal and friendly visitor of Aruba, at the Manchebo Beach Resort as a Distinguished Visitor of Aruba. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the

name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 consecutive years. The honoree is Carole Terry from New Rochelle, NY. Carol loves the Island very much, because of the friendly people, the climate, the



beach at Manchebo, restaurants and most of all the nice people working at the Manchebo. The certificate was presented by Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, together with Lidia Haley and Debbie Hassell, representing the Manchebo Beach Resort. □

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ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi, a true native Aruban started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced hand rolled cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi always had a interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crops. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba, he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The whole process took him 10 years to perfect. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the moulding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. Their handmade cigar box is specially designed with their "Aruhiba" logo. Petrocchi considers Aruhiba as a promotion for Aruba through its fine cigars. The company sells Aruhiba to the international markets as well. Visit their retail store located in front of the Historic Dutch Windmill in front of the Westin Resort, with any purchase of \$20 and up you receive a free "Aruhiba" cigar or ask for their gift box of 5 cigars get 1 FREE for only \$37. They open from Monday to Saturday from 9 am till 6:30 pm and on Sundays from 9 am to 1 pm. Aruhiba cigars are now available at the gift stores in your resort



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Snedeker to make Ryder Cup debut as a pick

Brandt Snedeker hits his drive on the first hole of the third round of The Barclays golf tournament at Bethpage State Park in Farmingdale, N.Y., Saturday, Aug. 25, 2012.

Associated Press
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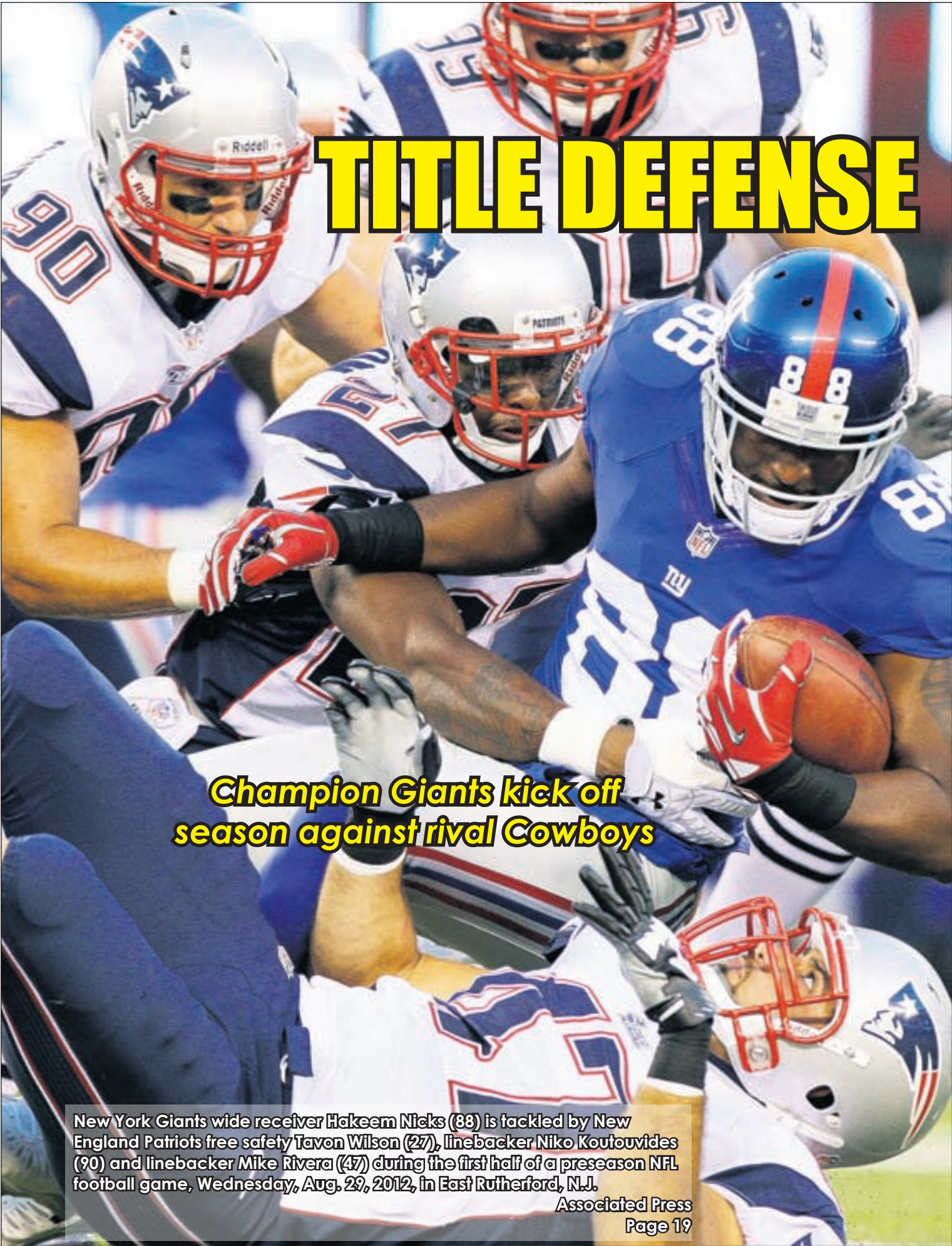
Victoria Azarenka, of Belarus, bounces a ball on her racket before serving to Samantha Stosur, of Australia, in the quarterfinals of the 2012 US Open tennis tournament, Tuesday, Sept. 4, 2012, in New York.

Associated

Azarenka outlasts Stosur in U.S. Open

RACHEL COHEN
AP Sports Writer
NEW YORK (AP) — Victoria Azarenka kept chiding herself: "Don't be a chicken." So when she faced a break point against the defending U.S. Open champion late in the final set, Azarenka didn't care that she hadn't hit an ace all day. She knocked a booming serve down the middle, the ball barely clipping the line out of Sam Stosur's reach. Pushed to the limit, the world's top-ranked player hung tough in Tuesday's quarterfinals for a victory in a third-set tiebreaker. "When you're facing a break point, you don't feel like you're going to hope for a mistake," Azarenka said.

Continued on Page 20



Champion Giants kick off season against rival Cowboys

New York Giants wide receiver Hakeem Nicks (88) is tackled by New England Patriots free safety Tavon Wilson (27), linebacker Niko Koufouvides (90) and linebacker Mike Rivera (47) during the first half of a preseason NFL football game, Wednesday, Aug. 29, 2012, in East Rutherford, N.J.

Associated Press
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Captain's pick show strength of American team

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Davis Love III faced a tough decision when he filled out his Ryder Cup team with four picks, no different from the previous 11 U.S. captains. What helped is that he couldn't go wrong. Steve Stricker and Jim Furyk were locks all along, and Dustin Johnson became impossible to ignore when his game rounded into shape over the past two weeks. Brandt Snedeker was the final choice over Hunter Mahan, but really, it could have gone much deeper.

"He was in a no-lose situation," said Paul Azinger, the 2008 captain who was behind the changes of picking four players instead of two.

"He could have picked Hunter, Bo Van Pelt or Nick Watney and not gotten slaughtered. He maybe could have picked Rickie Fowler and not gotten slaughtered. Really, has it ever been the case when you could look at 18 names and all 18 names would have been OK?"

The focus Tuesday from Times Square was on the four guys added to the American team. Not to be forgotten are the eight guys who previously earned a spot on the team. This might be the most talented U.S. team since 1999 at Brookline, where the Americans staged the greatest comeback in Ryder Cup history.

"I think we are extremely deep this time, I think deeper than we have ever

been," Love said.

The eight players who qualified have combined for 12 wins on the PGA Tour, including two majors (Bubba Watson and Webb Simpson), a World Golf Championship (Keegan Bradley) and The Players Championship (Matt Kuchar).

Even so, the strength is best measured by who won't be at Medinah.

The Americans are finally starting to look like the European team, which has won six of the past eight times in the Ryder Cup. What made the Europeans look so strong in Wales two years ago was not so much the guys who made the team, but those who got left out — Sergio Garcia, Paul Casey, Justin Rose.

Check out that U.S. team from 2010. It had four players who hadn't won a tournament all year, and three of them were captain's picks because Corey Pavin didn't have many options from which to choose (except for Tiger Woods because, well, he's Tiger Woods).

Now consider the players Love left behind.

Mahan has won twice this year, including the Match Play Championship when he built a 4-up lead through 10 holes and beat Rory McIlroy, Europe's best player. Mahan was leading the Ryder Cup standings after the Masters and still couldn't make the team. Part of that speaks to Mahan's form, another part to the quality of the U.S. team. Fowler finally got his first PGA Tour win — in a play-



United States Ryder Cup captain Davis Love III announces the final four golfers for the American team during a news conference, Tuesday, Sept. 4, 2012 in New York. Love filled out his 12-man team by selecting Dustin Johnson, Jim Furyk, Brandt Snedeker and Steve Stricker.

Associated Press



Hunter Mahan reacts after missing a putt on the 13th green during the second round of the Deutsche Bank Championship PGA golf tournament at TPC Boston in Norton, Mass., Saturday, Sept. 1, 2012.

Associated Press

off over McIlroy (and D.A. Points) at Quail Hollow — and didn't come close to making the team. Nick Watney won The Barclays, one of the strongest fields of the year.

"Davis had an enviable and difficult time," said Curtis Strange, another former captain. "He had a lot

of good players. Can't go wrong there."

Then again, Love's picks were never going to determine the outcome in the Sept. 28-30 matches. That's never the case.

Strange gets maligned for going 0-3 at Oak Hill in 1995, losing the last three holes against Nick Faldo

in a 14½-13½ win for Europe. Then again, Peter Jacobsen, Jay Haas and Brad Faxon all came to the 18th with a chance to earn points and missed crucial putts.

There have been rumblings that Snedeker was helped by having a winter home at Sea Island, the longtime home base of Love, along with being in the same management group as Love and having the same equipment sponsor.

"That's probably made it harder on me," Snedeker said over the weekend.

Strange has lived through that kind of gossip.

He had won the U.S. Open at Oak Hill and was playing well when Lanny Wadkins picked him 1995, even though he was down the list.

"There was this argument about a good ol' boy network, a couple of guys from Virginia," Strange said. "The truth is, I never had dinner with Lanny once in my life except at the Ryder Cup, and even then I didn't want to have dinner with him."

Even so, Strange said he felt more pressure than usual on the final day because he knew people questioned the pick, and because he had lost both his foursomes matches.

That won't be the case for any of these picks. Mahan, while deeply disappointed, couldn't find anything wrong with Love taking Snedeker and Johnson.

"Brandt and Dustin just outplayed me at the end of the day," he said. □

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NFL champion Giants kick off season vs. Cowboys

By TOM CANAVAN
AP Sports Writer

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) - A good start is what is on the line this time when the New York Giants host the Dallas Cowboys in the NFL season opener.

The stakes were much greater the last time the NFC East foes faced off to close the last regular season. New York won to claim the division title en route to the Super Bowl title. Dallas was left out of the postseason.

On Wednesday night at MetLife Stadium, the winner will take the early upper hand in the divisional race. For Eli Manning and the Super Bowl champion Giants, this will be a chance to silence the critics and detractors who have sounded off repeatedly after they beat the New England Patriots in February to claim their second title in five seasons.

The Giants heard it all. They were lucky to get into the playoffs with a 9-7 record. They really didn't beat the Packers or 49ers, they were just handed the games. There is a lot more, but that is the gist.

That is now over.

The goal for Tom Coughlin's players is to show they have constructed that bridge the 65-year-old coach urged them to build to link their late-season 6-0 run to the title to the 2012 campaign.

"The leadership we have on this football team, that's going to be the spine of the bridge, if you will," defensive captain Justin Tuck said. "I think we're in a good place as far as where we want to be coming into the game."

The Giants are confident, and they don't care what outsiders are saying about

them.

"We've already showed people who we are," safety Antrel Rolle said. "We can care less about that. We leave that up to spectators. We're just going out there and playing ball. And that is what it is all about. We can care less about what kind of recognition we are getting or who is crowning us and who is not crowning us. None of that matters coming into the 2012 season."

Jerry Jones' Cowboys face a much different task after an 8-8 campaign that ended with an embarrassing 31-14 loss to the Giants on New Year's Day.

The outspoken owner, who boasted to fans that his team would kick the Giants' posteriors in Dallas when the clubs meet a second time this season on Oct. 28, knows the window for the aging Cowboys to return to the franchise's glory years is fading fast.

"It's a great opportunity for us is how I look at it," Jones said of the season opener.

"So very meaningful. Everybody has all the appreciation in the world for what we're up against here, the quality of the team, so to have success up there would be very meaningful. "As in any game in the NFL, it's certainly not how you ultimately will wind up one way or the other, but it is a big game in front of really the entire world of sports, high visible game against the world champions."

Romo will again be under the spotlight. He has yet to lead the 'Boys to a title, and many wonder whether he will after a late-season meltdown in which Dallas lost four of its final five games, including two to the Giants.

"I think they always stick



In this Aug. 24, 2012, file photo, New York Giants quarterback Eli Manning (10) hands the ball to running back David Wilson (34) during the first half of an NFL preseason football game against the Chicago Bears in East Rutherford, N.J. The Giants are scheduled to begin their season on Sept. 5 at home against the Dallas Cowboys.

Associated Press

with you," Romo said of the last game. "That's what fuels you in the offseason and makes you ... you want to remember those moments so you can improve from them. As a football team, we've taken an approach that we need to get better. I think we've done that with the personnel and our approach and the way the guys have been committed. It's been great to see. Now it's time to take it to the field."

There are a couple of key matchups to watch. Manning and receivers Victor Cruz and Hakeem Nicks combined for 14 receptions for 237 yards in New York's 37-34 win in Dallas on Dec. 11, and they had 11

more catches for 254 yards and two touchdowns in the division-deciding game.

In the offseason, the Cowboys signed former Chiefs cornerback Brandon Carr as a free agent and moved up eight spots in the first round of the draft to take another cornerback, Morris Claiborne of LSU.

The key to the Giants' success in the postseason was the ability of the defensive line to pressure quarterbacks. The assault will again be led by All Pro Jason Pierre-Paul, Tuck and fellow two-time Pro Bowler Osi Umenyiora.

Dallas has revamped its offensive line, signing veteran guards Mackenzy Bernadeau and Nate Livings,

and having tackles Tyron Smith and Doug Free switch sides. Center Phil Costa returns in the middle.

Both running games should improve this season. The Cowboys' DeMarco Murray is healthy after hurting his ankle in the first Giants' game. New York, which finished last in the league in rushing, should be better with speedy first-round draft pick David Wilson backing up Ahmad Bradshaw.

The Giants have some weaknesses the Cowboys can exploit.

Michael Coe is the surprise starter for New York at cornerback after injuries ended Terrell Thomas' season and have Prince Amukamara out the opener. Rookie Jayron Hosley, the third-round draft pick, is battling a pain issue with turf toe.

The other area of concern for the Giants is tight end. Jake Ballard and Travis Beckum both sustained major knee injuries in the Super Bowl. Ballard is no longer with the team, and Beckum will start the season on the physically-unable-to-perform list.

Former Cowboy Martellus Bennett, who signed with the Giants as a free agent, will be Manning's main target at tight end.

"I'm excited about the opportunity for this game, playing at home as the defending Super Bowl champs," veteran offensive tackle David Diehl said. "This is a huge game. This is a game the minute that schedule came out we had circled as a team, but also we know the minute that we beat them in the division to take over last season, this was a game they had circled right from the get-go." □

Rodriguez: I will hold off Alberto Contador in Vuelta

MADRID (AP) — The toughest stage over, Spanish Vuelta leader Joaquin Rodriguez believes he can resist any challenge from Alberto Contador during the final week to win his first major cycling race.

Rodriguez is 28 seconds ahead of his fellow Spaniard going into the final five legs of the 21-stage race. His confidence was further boosted by beating Contador in Monday's grueling mountain climb.

"Yesterday was no doubt the most difficult day that I've had here. Having overcome that stage has definitely helped," Rodriguez said Tuesday. "It's difficult to imagine I'd be in this position on the second rest day, especially after the time trial. But today I've got more confidence in myself, and I've been capable of resisting Alberto's attacks since the start."

"Alberto is Alberto, so he can still win," he added. Contador returned from a lengthy doping ban last

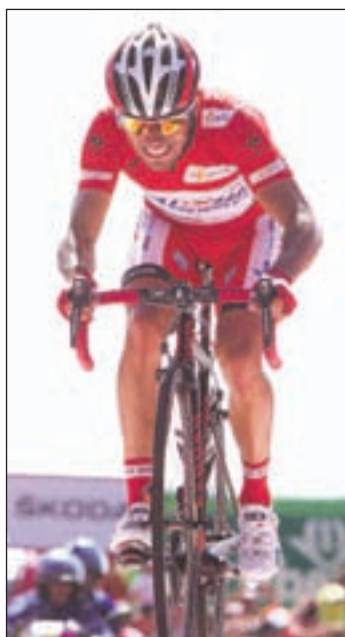
month, and the layoff has taken its toll.

"It's evident my form isn't what it has been on other occasions. I lack some punch," the two-time Tour de France champion said. "I'm conscious of how difficult it's going to be to win." The 30-year-old Contador believes Saturday's penultimate stage — another testing mountain finish at Bola del Mundo — is his last hope of adding a second Vuelta title to his 2008 success.

"It's complicated because there isn't much race left, like the Tour in 2011 when there was mountain stages and a time trial in the last week," Contador said. "In the Vuelta, these possibilities aren't there. But (Saturday's stage) is there and I'll go for it."

The 187-kilometer (116-mile) 17th stage on Wednesday starts in Santander with a mountain finish at Fuente De.

Alejandro Valverde of Spain is the next closest, 2:58 behind Rodriguez.



Race leader Joaquin Rodríguez of Spain reaches the finish line to win the 12th stage of the Spanish Vuelta cycling race in Dumbria, Spain, Thursday Aug. 30, 2012. The 21-stage, three week race ends in Madrid on Sept. 9.
Associated Press

Tour runner-up Christopher Froome of Britain is nearly 5 minutes behind in fourth. The 67th edition of the Spanish race ends in Madrid on Sunday. □



Morgan Brian (6) of the U.S., celebrates with teammate Maya Hayes after scoring her team's first goal against Nigeria during their semifinal soccer match of the U-20 women's World Cup in Tokyo, Tuesday, Sept. 4, 2012.

Associated Press

U.S., Germany in final of women's U20 WCup

By JIM ARMSTRONG

AP Sports Writer

TOKYO (AP) -- The United States beat Nigeria 2-0 on Tuesday and will play defending champion Germany for the women's under-20 World Cup title.

Morgan Brian scored in the first half and Kealia Ohai added another goal in the second to send the Americans to the final for the third time. The U.S. won in 2002 and 2008.

"It was a difficult match physically," U.S. coach Steve Swanson said. "Nigeria gave us all we could handle and a little more. Getting that first goal was key for us."

Germany, trying to become the first team to win consecutive titles, beat host Japan 3-0. Japan will face Nigeria for third place Saturday before the U.S. meets Germany. The Germans also won the title in 2004. □

U.S. Open

Continued from page 17

"You have to make it happen. You have to change the momentum. You have to create something that will surprise her. (She) has the momentum going; she's feeling confident. She has a chance. I had to come up and be strong. "So I was like, 'OK. Let's do it. If I miss it, I miss it.'"

Azarenka eked out a 6-1, 4-6, 7-6 (5) win in 2 hours, 23 minutes — not including an early 76-minute rain delay. She had never lost even a set to the Australian in six previous meetings, but Stosur rallied time and again after a lopsided first set.

"I enjoy the fight," Azarenka said. "I enjoy that struggle, that pain that we go through, that incredible moment that you feel relieved after you gave it all in every point you had."

The rain returned soon after she closed out the win, wreaking havoc on the



Samantha Stosur, of Australia, blows on her fingers during her match against Victoria Azarenka, of Belarus, in the quarterfinals of the 2012 US Open tennis tournament, Tuesday, Sept. 4, 2012, in New York.

Associated Press

match that will determine Azarenka's semifinal opponent. Maria Sharapova and Marion Bartoli waited around for more than an hour before starting their quarterfinal, with Bartoli leading 4-0 when the skies opened up again.

The completion of the match was eventually postponed until Wednesday, freeing up Arthur Ashe Sta-

dium for a night session that features a highly anticipated men's fourth-round matchup if the weather clears: Andy Roddick trying to stave off retirement against Juan Martin del Potro.

The rest of the day session was still on, though tournament officials moved around later matches to different courts to try to get

play completed with plenty of showers in the forecast. The seventh-seeded Stosur came back from down a break twice in the third set. She had a chance to go up a break at 5-5 when Azarenka hit that lone ace.

Then in the tiebreaker, Stosur recovered from trailing 4-0.

"There was momentum here, momentum there," Stosur said. "We were hitting winners and running all over the court."

At 5-all in the tiebreaker, Stosur's forehand nicked the net cord and landed short, and Azarenka put the point away with a drop shot.

"I was lucky that the ball caught the net. I was just trying to stay in the moment," Azarenka said. "I didn't really feel like what was the score. I had to do something to surprise, because at this moment you have to come up with something different, not the usual what you do. Because one or two shots will

just decide everything."

On match point, Azarenka's final forehand touched down on the baseline, forcing Stosur into a crouch and a wild backhand.

Azarenka improved to 11-0 in three-set matches this year. She had never before made it past the fourth round at the U.S. Open.

The Australian Open champ from Belarus kept Stosur on the run in the first set, breaking her three times. But in the second, Stosur started channeling the aggressive play that allowed her to upset Serena Williams in the final here last year, pounding big forehands for winners.

"I think I'm capable of beating her one day," Stosur said. "Just would have liked it to have been today."

Stosur conceded it had been a "rough" year since she broke through for that first Grand Slam title. She lost in the first round at home at the Australian Open and in her second match at Wimbledon. □

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Kenseth makes move to Joe Gibbs Racing official

By JENNA FRYER

Associated Press

HUNTERSVILLE, N.C. (AP)

— Matt Kenseth opened this season with a second victory in the Daytona 500, and it didn't take him long to establish himself as a legitimate championship contender.

But before the midpoint of the season, Kenseth had decided he no longer wanted to drive for Roush Fenway Racing. On Tuesday, nearly two months after RFR said Kenseth was leaving, the driver finally confirmed he's moving to Joe Gibbs Racing at the end of the season.

"Surprise," he said as he entered a JGR news conference, a dry quip at one of the worst kept secrets in NASCAR.

Kenseth was deliberately vague, though, as to why he's leaving RFR after 13 full Cup seasons. He's never driven for anyone else at NASCAR's highest level, and paired with Jack Roush won 22 races, a pair of Daytona 500s and the 2003 championship.

"I knew it would not only be a good fit, but it's about winning races and winning championships and you want to put yourself in a position to be competitive going forward," Kenseth said.

"I felt like this was it."

But he was winning races and he was competitive at Roush, where the 40-year-old Kenseth is considered one of NASCAR's elite drivers. Pressed as to what JGR offered, Kenseth knew he wasn't going to give a clear answer. □

O's Hammel expected to start Thursday

TORONTO (AP) — Baltimore Orioles right-hander Jason Hammel is expected to come off the 15-day disabled list Thursday to start the opener of an important four-game series against the New York Yankees.

Hammel had a successful bullpen session in Toronto on Tuesday. He hasn't appeared in a major league game since July 13, when he left a start against Detroit with pain in his right knee. He underwent surgery the following week.

Hammel pitched five scoreless innings in a rehab start at Class-A Frederick last Saturday, his first live action following a pair of simulated games. The Orioles wanted to see how Hammel performed in his bullpen session before deciding whether to start him against the Yankees, who had a one-game lead over the Orioles in the AL East entering play Tuesday. Right-hander Chris Tillman, who left Sunday's victory over the Yankees with a sore elbow, had an MRI Tuesday. Manager Buck Showalter said Tillman has no structural damage, just minor inflammation.

Tillman will work out at Double-A Bowie until Baltimore returns home. It's not yet known when he will pitch again, but he could face the Yankees this weekend. Infielder Jim Thome, out since July 28 with a herniated disk in his neck, is feeling better and is scheduled to see a doctor on Thursday, Showalter said. Left-hander Troy Patton, sidelined since Aug. 13 by a sprained right ankle, threw from 120 feet on flat ground Tuesday, up from 90 feet the day before.

Hammel will fly home



In this file photo taken May 14, 2012, Baltimore Orioles starting pitcher Jason Hammel delivers during a baseball game in Baltimore.

Associated Press

ahead of his teammates before Wednesday's series finale against the Blue Jays, avoiding a late-night return to Baltimore. Showalter said Hammel will be on a pitch

count against New York, but would not specify how long he would be able to go.

Hammel's start pushes Wei-Yin Chen back to Friday,

giving the Taiwanese rookie an extra day of rest.

Also Tuesday, the Orioles recalled left-hander Zach Britton from Triple-A Norfolk to face the Blue Jays. □

Early Bird Menu

Appetizer

Stuffed Avocado
Escargots Bourguignon
Fruits of the Seven Sea
Choice of Soup

Entrees:

Breaded Grouper
topped with Coconut Shrimps
served with rice and vegetables

Land & Sea

Chicken Breast, Steak & Shrimps
with rice and vegetables

Breaded Chicken Breast

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Dr. Viana's 3 Steps to Health -Step 2

By: Dr. Carlos Viana



Our Biocompatible or "life friendly" protocol has three, easy to understand steps, for guiding you back to health. The steps are: 1) GET the poison OUT; 2) BRING IN what the body needs and 3) BALANCE your lifestyle. If you follow these steps in the order outlined above, you most probably will enjoy health.

Last week, in Step 1, we explored what the saying; "Cleanliness is close to Godliness" is really talking about. It refers to keeping clean your God given temple, your body. Once we identify and eliminate toxic elements in your body, you are on the road to better health and are ready for the next step.

Imagine being told by your father, that there is a lot that contains the plans, workers and materials to build a grand church. You are to take charge as the master builder. You get there and see that indeed the first step, cleaning the land has taken place.

The plans are there, the people ready to work. However, are the building materials adequate and of the finest quality, or are they insufficient or inferior to do a good job? A great building is only as good as the materials used to construct it.

Stone and cement alone, do not, strong concrete make. You need a third element, water. Your body is no different. Clean water is essential to keep the body healthy. We consider water the first nutrient for health. Water is essential for digestion, absorption of nutrients and elimination of waste. Water acts like a medicine

when dehydrated. It helps prevents chronic inflammation, enhances, and moistens lung surfaces enhancing breathing. Water aids in regulation of body temperature and supports communication between cells, organs and all parts of the body. Water is even in bone, and solid material.

Many people drink very little or no water, relying instead on sugary or caffeinated drinks that can actually rob the body of its necessary water. Even natural juice, with the exception apple juice dries out the body. A body deficient in water is dehydrated.

Dehydrated people fail to absorb good fats like omega oils important for the brain; their face wrinkles and habits become odd. Symptoms of water deficiency in the body include stiff bones and joints, sluggish colon, difficulty hearing, faulty eyesight, irritated nerves and brain ailments. In clinic, we have seen arthritic symptoms disappear after several month of adequate water intake. Adequate intake is, for every 70lbs/30kg, you need to drink one Qt/lit. of water.

The next thing you need to build a strong body is quality food. Any mason knows that when you mess too much making concrete you spoil the batch. Food is the same. The best food has not been "messed with." The more you process food, the less value it has nutritionally. Similarly, if you wait too long to use the concrete, it will become useless. Even healthy food that is old becomes less nutritious to your body.

The definition of food is "anything which when taken into the body, serves to nourish or build up the tissues or to supply body heat" (Dorlands Medical Dictionary). Anything is a broad statement. Healthy food, not "anything" provides life. The modern paradox is that the "freedom from preparing fresh meals" has provided us with ill health, filling doctor's waiting rooms.

Especially in developed countries, millions of people are dying of heart disease, cancer, kidney disease, cirrhosis of the liver and diabetes. More have arthritis, asthma, bronchitis, hypoglycemia, venereal disease, dental problems and mental illness. With all the medical technology, life expectancy has increased by only two years since 1914. Food either sustains health or tears it down.

We have genetically altered food, painted food, frozen food, junk food, fast food, canned food, instant dinners, microwave specials and they are all nutritionally deficient. When foods that started as complex, carbohydrates are "modified" into convenient simple carbohydrates, the "life" has been removed. Simple carbohydrates like white sugar, white flour, table salt, soft drinks, coffee, alcohol, high fructose corn syrup HFCS and other civilized amenities are responsible for eighty percent of our medical problems.

Marketing "experts" bombard us constantly in every form of media to buy and use these products, promising irresistible sex, beauty and a "now" lifestyle. Many

of these foods are also addicting and professional help from certified nutritionists, doctors and counselors may be needed to break the cycle of use and abuse just like alcohol and drugs. We help our patients break the cycle and understand how to eat, healthy, natural food, like whole grains. Whole wheat is the most popular grain, but a large percentage of the population is wheat intolerant or sensitive. Additionally, the gluten in wheat is not healthy for the growing number of people with diabetes or insulin problems. Brown rice is easy readily available, easy to cook and is a staple in our diet. Quinoa is a supergrain from Peru that abounds in absorbable B vitamins, protein, calcium and more that is good for all types of people. Be prepared to pay more for whole grains because growers cannot sell the skins to vitamin companies. Include fresh vegetables, fruit and lean protein for a healthy diet. Unfortunately, even the healthiest, organic food still may be nutritionally deficient, that is why I always recommend including some basic supplements like vitamin C, Magnesium, Zinc and Lecithin.

Get the Point! Whether a cathedral or our body, the materials used make a difference. Quality food and water are the building blocks of health. We can help you identify and get the poison out then educate you about eating "live" foods specific for you metabolic type. Sickness is not natural. Our natural

or God given temple, our bodies, were made to be healthy. However, to be healthy, we have to nourish ourselves with the natural, pure and whole. In Step 3, we will discuss lifestyle choices for living healthy.

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in China; a US Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), an Addiction Professional (C.Ad.), Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist specializing in Age Management, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA HEALING CENTER, Kibaima 7, St Cruz TEL: 585-1270 Web Site: www.vianaheal.com

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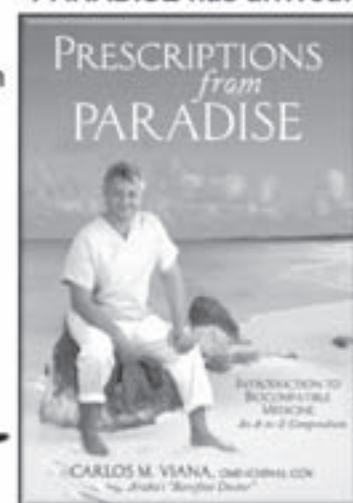
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Gadget makers jockey for edge in holiday lineups

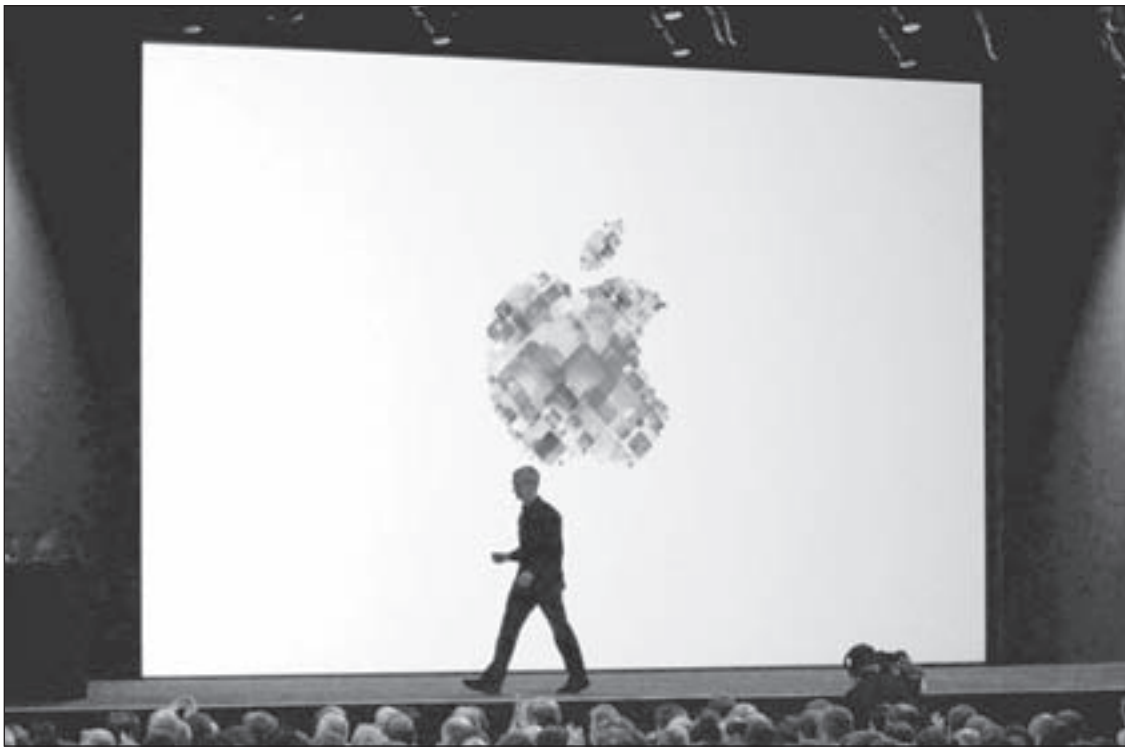
ANICK JESDANUN
AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Think of it as the opening act at a concert: Nokia, Motorola and Amazon are expected to unveil new mobile devices this week before attention turns to a new iPhone and possibly a smaller iPad from Apple.

Makers of consumer electronics are refreshing their products for the holiday shopping season. Apple's rivals are hoping that a head start on the buzz will translate into stronger sales. Nokia and Microsoft, in particular, are trying to generate interest in a new Windows operating system out next month. Apple dominates the market for tablet computers. Seven out of every 10 tablets shipped in the second quarter were iPads, according to research firm IHS iSuppli. Rivals have been trying to compete with smaller, cheaper models — such as the Kindle Fire, which Amazon is expected to update on Thursday. Now, there's speculation that Apple will be coming out with a smaller iPad as well.

Sales of Apple's iPhones are still strong, though the company lost the lead in smartphones to Samsung this year. Samsung Electronics Co. benefited from having its Galaxy S III out in the U.S. in June, while Apple was still selling an iPhone model released last October. A new iPhone is expected as early as this month, allowing Apple to recapture the attention and the revenue. Here's a look at what to expect this fall:

— **NEW IPHONE:** Apple Inc. has been coming out with a new iPhone each year, and that's likely to continue. The new model is expected to work with fourth-generation, or 4G, cellular



In this Monday, June 11, 2012, file photo, Apple CEO Tim Cook walks on stage during the Apple Developers Conference in San Francisco.

Associated Press

networks that phone companies have been building. That capability is something the S III and many other iPhone rivals already have. A bigger iPhone screen is also possible. Apple said Tuesday that it will host an event in San Francisco next Wednesday. The topic wasn't disclosed, but the email invitation contains a shadow in the shape of a "5" — a sign that the iPhone 5 is coming. Sales usually begin a week or two after such an announcement. One thing is known: Apple plans to update its phone software this fall and will ditch Google's mapping service for its own.

— **SMALLER IPAD:** Apple has done well selling its full-sized tablet computer, which has a screen that measures nearly 10 inches (25 centimeters) diagonally. Many companies have tried to come out with iPad alternatives, but the ones that have had moderate suc-

cess have tended to be those with smaller, 7-inch (17.5-centimeter) screens and lower price tags. There's a belief that Apple will come out with mini iPad this fall — possibly with a 7.85-inch (19.9-centimeter) screen — to compete with those competitors. It's not as much a certainty as a new iPhone, though. Apple hasn't said anything about its plans.

— **REKINDLING THE FIRE:** Amazon.com Inc.'s 7-inch Kindle Fire is one of the smaller tablets with decent sales. Last week, Amazon said it has sold out of the Kindle Fire, a sign that it had retooled its production lines for a successor. Amazon has a major event planned in Santa Monica, California, on Thursday. Amazon hasn't said anything about what it will say, but it's expected to announce a new Kindle Fire and possibly other Kindle e-readers, too. Barnes and Noble Inc., which makes

the 7-inch (17.5-centimeter) Nook Tablet, may have an update this fall as well.

— **MOTOROLA'S RETURN:** Though it's a pioneer in the cellphone industry, Motorola hasn't had a hit since the Razr phone came out in 2004. Under new owner Google Inc., Motorola Mobility is trying to change that. It has scheduled an event in New York on Wednesday. No further details were available. It could be a new phone or a new tablet running Google's Android operating system. Either way, it will be the first Motorola product announcement since Google bought the company for \$12.4 billion in May. Google, meanwhile, continues to sell a 7-inch Android tablet, the Nexus 7, made in partnership with AsusTek Computer Inc.

— **CALLING ON WINDOWS:** Microsoft Corp. will release a new version of the Windows operating system on Oct. 26, one that's de-

signed to work on both traditional computers and tablet devices. A new version of the Windows Phone system is coming out, too. Once-dominant phone maker Nokia Corp. has been struggling in the shadow of Apple, and it's counting on the new Windows system for a revival. Nokia and Microsoft have jointly scheduled an announcement in New York on Wednesday. It's likely on new Windows phones under Nokia's Lumia brand. — **SURFACE:** Microsoft plans its own tablet computer, too. It's new territory for Microsoft, which typically leaves it to others to make devices using its software. Now, it will be competing against its partners. The Surface tablet will come in two versions, both with 10.6-inch (26.9-centimeter) screens, slightly larger than the iPad's. One model will run on phone-style chips, just like the iPad, and will be sold for a similar price. A heavier, more expensive version will run on Intel chips and be capable of running standard Windows applications. The Surface will go on sale on Oct. 26. — **NEW BLACKBERRYS:** A year ago, Research In Motion Ltd. disclosed that it was working on a next-generation phone system for the BlackBerry, which now looks ancient next to the iPhone and Android devices. It was supposed to be out in time for this year's holiday season. That won't happen. In June, RIM pushed the release of BlackBerry 10 devices into early next year, saying it wasn't ready. That means RIM will not only compete with the new iPhone and Android devices out this fall, but it will also have to contend with the new Windows devices. □

Stocks end sideways on weak economic reports

PALLAVI GOGOI
AP Business Writer
NEW YORK (AP) —

Stocks zigged and zagged Tuesday after reports that the U.S. economy is weakening at a time when China and Europe are also slowing. The Dow Jones industrial average closed down 54.90 points at 13,035.94. Heavy equipment maker Caterpillar was the weakest stock in the Dow average, slipping 3 percent, or \$2.67, to \$82.66. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 1.64 points to 1,404.94. The Nasdaq index bucked the losing trend, gaining 8.10 points at 3,075.06. A big reason was that the index's biggest stock, Apple, rose \$9.73 to \$674.97 after the company invited reporters to a news event next week at which it is expected to announce the long-awaited iPhone 5. The market got off to a weak start after the Commerce Department reported that U.S. construction spending fell 0.9 percent in July from June, driven lower by a sharp drop in spending on home improvement

projects. The decline, the worst in a year, followed three months of gains powered by increases in home and apartment construction. New home construc-

tion rose again in July, but spending on home renovation projects fell 5.5 percent. A separate report delivered more gloomy news on the economy: the third straight

month of contraction in U.S. manufacturing. New orders, production and employment all fell in August. Factories have been a key source of jobs and growth for manufacturers, said its index of manufacturing edged down to 49.6 from 49.7 in July. It was the lowest reading in three years. A reading below 50 indicates that manufacturing is contracting. "It's time to go back to school and sharpen up on stocks and pay attention to the numbers," said Kim Forrest, equity analyst at financial advisory firm Fort Pitt Capital Group. "The numbers show that there's a lot of weakness out there and investors have gotten lulled into complacency in the last month or so." The week will culminate with U.S. nonfarm payroll figures Friday, one of the most important barometers for the world's largest economy. Federal Reserve chairman Ben Bernanke has indicated that the central bank is inclined to provide new stimulus if it's needed. Despite the gloom, Americans continued to buy cars thanks to model-year closeouts, low-interest financing and appealing new models. GM's August U.S. sales rose 10 percent compared with a year earlier, while

Ford's rose 13 percent and Chrysler's 14 percent. Ford's stock rose 7 cents to \$9.41. In Europe, Moody's warned that it could downgrade the credit rating of the European Union as a whole, citing the continent's lingering debt crisis. That sent markets broadly lower in Europe. Benchmark indexes fell 1.2 percent in Germany, 1.6 percent in France and 1.5 percent in Britain. The focus this week will be on the European Central Bank President Mario Draghi, who is expected to announce details on Thursday of a new bond-buying program intended to bring down the borrowing costs of countries such as Spain and Italy. The price of oil also slipped on worries that demand would fall. U.S. benchmark crude fell \$1.17 to \$95.30 in New York. Among other stocks making big moves: — Netflix plunged \$3.79 to \$55.93, a loss of 6 percent. Rival Amazon signed a deal with a company that licenses movies from Paramount, MGM and Lionsgate for its online streaming service. □



Celebrity chef Rocco DiSpirito rings the opening bell at The New York Stock Exchange on Tuesday, Sept. 4, 2012 in New York. Stocks zigged and zagged Tuesday after reports that the U.S. economy is weakening at a time when China and Europe are also slowing. The Dow Jones industrial average closed down 54.90 points at 13,035.94.

(Photo by Dario Cantatore/Invision/AP)

tion rose again in July, but spending on home renovation projects fell 5.5 percent. A separate report delivered more gloomy news on the economy: the third straight

since the recession ended in June 2009, but the sector has been weak in recent months. The Institute for Supply Management, a trade group of purchasing managers

Moody's: Outlook for US banks remains negative

NEW YORK (AP) — Moody's Investors Service said its outlook for the U.S. banking industry remains negative, as low interest rates and tepid economic growth will continue to hurt banks' finances over the next 12 to 18 months.

The rating agency also said in a report issued Tuesday that uncertainty over a plan to reduce the federal budget deficit as well as the debt crisis in Europe create a difficult environment for U.S. banks.

Moody's has raised its credit rating outlooks for most U.S. banks to "Stable" from "Negative" since early 2010 as banks have increased their cushions against losses. But Moody's said problems in the broader economy override that, as banks still carry many loans prone to default on their books and gains could be reversed if

the economy turns downward. Moody's warning follows recent data on banks from the Federal Deposit

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, warn of the potential negative impact on the U.S. economy and banks from the European



Moody's Investors Service said its outlook for the U.S. banking industry remains negative, as low interest rates and tepid economic growth will continue to hurt banks' finances over the next 12 to 18 months.

(Photo)

Insurance Corp. that adds to evidence that the industry is strengthening four years after the financial crisis. But regulators, including FDIC Chairman Martin Gruenberg and

debt crisis The FDIC reported last week that U.S. bank earnings rose 21 percent in the second quarter of this year, to \$34.5 billion, while lending to consumers increased. □

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Street Briefs

Facebook: lockup expiration moved up for employees

NEW YORK (AP) — Facebook is moving up the expiration date of a post-IPO ban on stock sales by employees by two weeks. Facebook Inc. also said in a regulatory filing Tuesday that CEO Mark Zuckerberg won't sell stock in the company for at least the next 12 months. Many of Facebook's rank-and-file employees can start selling stock they own on Oct. 29 instead of the earlier date of Nov. 14. Facebook says it's withholding about 101 million shares from its employee stock units to cover taxes they will incur at a rate of about 45%. It will then pay the tax obligations, currently estimated at around \$1.9 billion, cash and credit. Facebook's stock fell to \$17.55 in Tuesday trading, its lowest point ever, and closed down 33 cents at \$17.73. □

FedEx slashes earnings estimate for June-to-August quarter

NEW YORK (AP) — FedEx is cutting its earnings expectations, blaming the weak global economy. FedEx Corp. said Tuesday it expects to earn between \$1.37 and \$1.43 per share in the quarter that ended Aug. 31. That's down from an original forecast of \$1.45 to \$1.60 per share. Analysts were expecting \$1.56 per share, according to FactSet. The shortfall is primarily in the package-delivery company's express division. The speedy shipping division, which moves 3.5 million packages on an average day, has been hit hard as customers shift to slower delivery methods to conserve cash as the economy has slowed. FedEx reports fiscal first-quarter results on Sept. 18. Shares fell 3 percent in after-hours trading. □

US home prices rise by most in 6 years

CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. home prices jumped 3.8 percent in the 12 months ending in July, according to a private real estate data provider. The year-over-year increase was the biggest in six years, further evidence that the housing market is steadily recovering. CoreLogic said Tuesday that home prices also rose 1.3 percent in July from June. That's the fifth straight increase in both the monthly and year-over-year price indexes. The index is the third national measure to show steady increases. The Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller index

posted its first annual increase in nearly two years last week. And a federal government housing agency has also reported annual increases. The states with the biggest gains according to CoreLogic over the past 12 months were Arizona, Idaho, Utah, South Dakota and Colorado. In Arizona, prices have risen 16.6 percent since July 2011. Idaho has posted a 10-percent gain in that time. But not all states are seeing increases. In Delaware, prices dropped 4.8 percent in the 12-month period. Prices fell 4.6 percent in Alabama in that stretch. The housing market has been slowly

recovering this year. Sales of new and previously occupied homes are up. Builders are more confident and starting work on more homes. And mortgage rates are near their lowest levels of the past six decades. Prices are also rising because the supply of available homes remains tight. Still, the housing market's recovery is just beginning. Prices remain 27 percent below their peak in April 2006, CoreLogic said. The recent improvements have been widespread. Out of 100 large cities tracked by CoreLogic, only 23 posted year-over-year declines in July. That's four fewer than in June. □

Pickup trucks drive US auto sales to 3-year high

TOM KRISHER
AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — Big pickups carried U.S. auto sales to their highest level in three years. Demand for full-size pickups jumped 16 percent in August, helping to make it the strongest sales month since August 2009. Overall auto sales increased 20 percent from a year earlier to nearly 1.3 million, according to Autodata corp. The rising demand shows that businesses need to replace aging trucks and feel more confident about the recovery in U.S. housing — an industry where pickups are essential for hauling equipment and crews.



The Dodge logo is seen on a new Dodge RAM 1500 pickup truck for sale at an auto dealership in Springfield, Ill. GM's August U.S. sales rose 10 percent compared with a year earlier, while Ford's rose 13 percent and Chrysler's 14 percent.
(AP Photo/Seth Perlman)

"Businesses don't usually go buy a fleet of trucks unless they have good reason to believe that business will be ramping up," said Jesse Toprak, vice president of market intelligence for the TrueCar.com auto pricing service. Ford, GM and Chrysler, the biggest makers of full-size trucks, notched double-digit gains in overall sales last month. In pickups, Ford's F-Series, the top-selling vehicle in America, saw a 19 percent sales increase, as did Chrysler's Ram pickup. Sales of General Motors' Chevy Silverado rose 4 percent, while the GMC Sierra was up 9 percent. □

Survey:

US manufacturing shrinks for 3rd month

CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER
AP Economics Writer

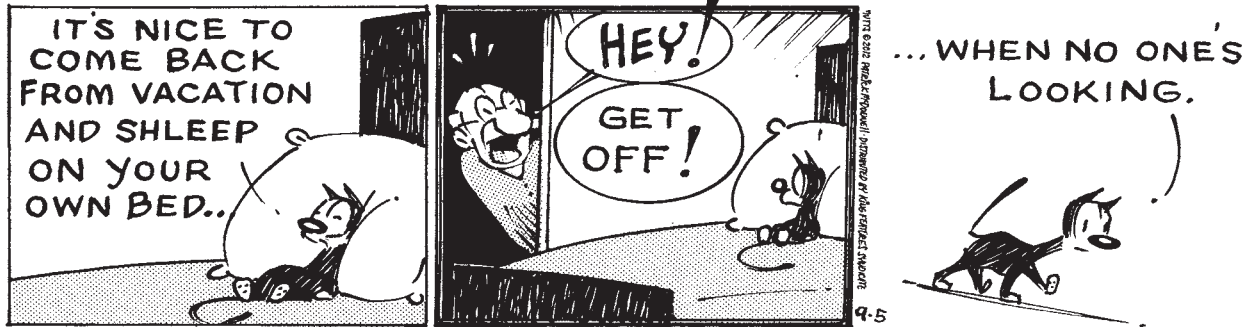
WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. factory activity shrank for the third straight month in August as new orders, production and employment all fell. The report adds to other signs that manufacturing is struggling around the globe. The Institute for Supply Management, a trade group of purchasing managers, said Tuesday its index of manufacturing activity ticked down to 49.6. That's down from 49.8 in July and the lowest reading in three years. A reading below 50 indicates contraction.

Weak consumer spending and steady declines in business orders for large machinery and other capital goods are slowing factory output. The report followed other data showing manufacturing has slowed overseas. A measure of factory activity in China fell to its lowest level in more than three years last month. And manufacturing in Europe has also stagnated in the face of the region's financial crisis. Paul Dales, senior U.S. economist at Capital Economics, said continued uncertainty caused by the recession in Europe, the slowdown in Asia and im-

pending tax increases and spending cuts in the United States "is taking its toll on activity." "At this level, the index remains consistent with ... growth in the third quarter of between 1.5 percent and 2 percent," Dales said in an email to clients. The manufacturing index typically needs to fall to about 43 to suggest the broader economy is shrinking, according to the ISM. Still, growth at or below 2 percent is not enough to significantly lower the unemployment rate, which was 8.3 percent in July. And the slight decline in manufacturing activity also

makes it more likely the Federal Reserve will take steps at its meeting next week to boost economic growth, Dales said. The stock market fell after the ISM data and a separate report on construction spending were released. Construction spending fell sharply in July. The Dow Jones industrial average dropped 96 points in morning trading. U.S. factories have been a key source of jobs and growth since the recession ended in June 2009. But the sector has shown signs of weakness in recent months. □

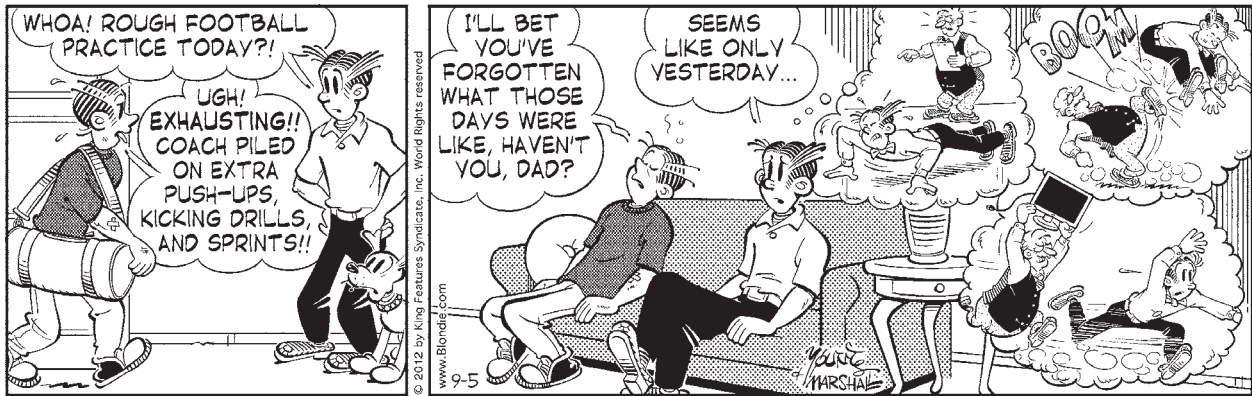
Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



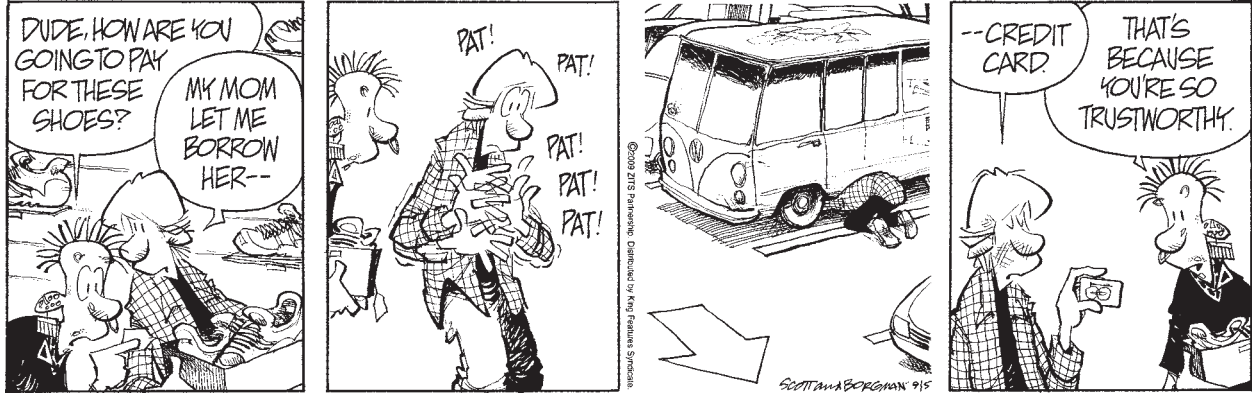
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

			4	9	3			
		5				1		
	3						8	
	9						6	
	7						3	
		1				7		
		7	5	1	8	3		
	8			6			4	
3				2				9

Difficulty Level ★★

9/05

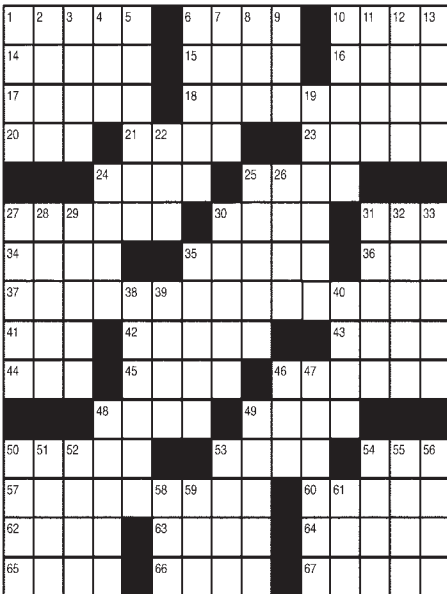
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

8	7	3	2	6	9	1	5	4
6	1	2	5	4	3	8	7	9
4	5	9	7	8	1	3	2	6
5	8	4	9	1	7	2	6	3
3	9	6	8	5	2	7	4	1
1	2	7	4	3	6	5	9	8
2	6	8	3	7	4	9	1	5
7	4	5	1	9	8	6	3	2
9	3	1	6	2	5	4	8	7

ACROSS

- 1 Butter-making vessel
- 6 Colorado ski resort
- 10 To the __; fully
- 14 Vietnam's capital
- 15 Peak
- 16 Huge continent
- 17 Upper crust
- 18 Disliked
- 20 Moist
- 21 Nat King __
- 23 On the ball
- 24 __ away; disappeared
- 25 Arden & Plumb
- 27 Lend a hand to
- 30 Ring, as a bell
- 31 Temporarily popular fashion
- 34 Drinks like Fido
- 35 Danger
- 36 Garland
- 37 People who put things off until later
- 41 Derby or fez
- 42 Furious
- 43 Heroic tale
- 44 Donkey
- 45 Easter flower
- 46 Discontinues
- 48 Thailand, once
- 49 Hoodlum
- 50 Gather info bit by bit
- 53 "I Got You __", 1960s hit song
- 54 Japanese sash
- 57 Steered a ship
- 60 Nile or Danube
- 62 Prayer closing
- 63 Actress Diane __
- 64 Language in Athens
- 65 Camp shelter
- 66 Melody
- 67 Stories



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

9/5/12

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

ACRE	PLATE	ASAP
WEED	LABOR	DANA
ADDS	UNCARED	FOR
YES	ACES	LEEDS
	KINKS	NOR
ERECTS	RIPSAW	
MELTEE	APACE	DIE
MATS	KNACK	EDNA
ADO	DANDY	TRIES
SNAILS	PRISSY	
	BEE	SAUNA
APART	FACE	BEN
ILLUSTRATE	WADE	
DEPP	OUTER	ABET
EAST	NEEDS	SANS

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9/5/12

DOWN

- 1 Use the molar
- 2 Healthy
- 3 College credit
- 4 Deteriorate
- 5 Brother's daughters
- 6 Bank safe
- 7 Zits
- 8 Mischief-maker
- 9 Zodiac lion
- 10 Tows
- 11 __ of Capri
- 12 Fib teller
- 13 Small fruit pie
- 19 Saffron rice and meat dish
- 22 Toronto's prov.
- 24 Milwaukee's state: abbr.
- 25 Uncanny
- 26 Conceited
- 27 1st Greek letter
- 28 Gilbert & Rue
- 29 Specks
- 30 Minor; trivial
- 31 Failures
- 32 Eagle's nest
- 33 Compact __; CDs
- 35 Biblical poem
- 38 Irritating
- 39 Opera solo
- 40 Yellowish-brown wood
- 46 Baby bear

- 47 Get-up-and-go
- 48 Canonized one
- 49 San Diego
- 50 Pesky insect
- 51 Like a poor excuse
- 52 __-tempered; unflappable
- 53 Swiss capital
- 54 Finished
- 55 Has-__; one no longer popular
- 56 Annoys
- 58 Fore and __
- 59 Fraternity letter
- 61 Tax-deferred acct.

Female cigar roller a rarity, but a nice twist

VINCENT M. MALLOZZI
© 2012 New York Times

Ana Perez reached into a pile of Connecticut shade tobacco leaves and placed one on the small table in front of her. She began spraying the leaf with water and carving it up with a chaveta knife.

"These leaves are very temperamental, just like women," Perez told a group of men surrounding her at a corporate event on a recent weeknight in midtown Manhattan.

"When I roll Connecticut leaves into cigars, it makes for a milder blend," she explained. "At a party like this, I'd rather roll milder cigars than stronger ones using something like ligero leaves, which are darker and result in more of a bold blend. It's the same thing as making chocolate: The darker it is, the stronger or bolder it is going to be."

Perez, a 26-year-old social worker from Morristown, N.J., has a second job that is unlikely to be found in a classified advertisement. She is a cigar roller, and rather unusual in a field that has been dominated by men for more than 500 years, though cigar factories have also employed women. In 1492, Christopher Columbus discovered cigars in Cuba, made from raw, twisted tobacco leaves and smoked by indigenous peoples.

Although its roots are in Cuba, cigar rolling is big business in New York, Florida and many places around the world where Cubans have popularized the craft at Cuban restaurants, weddings and other events.

"I have never seen a woman rolling cigars at an event like this," Joe Genovese, a 49-year-old electrician, said while puffing on one of the 5-inch cigars that Perez had rolled and cut to size using an assortment of tools.

"Usually, it's an older, distinguished-looking man rolling my cigar, so this is a pleasant surprise," Genovese said between puffs, "and I must say, her cigar has a

very good draw to it." Perez, who was born in Cuba, is indeed as rare as a Cuban cigar in an American humidor. She is one of eight young and attractive cigar-rolling women employed by a company called Cigar Dolls, which is



Ana Perez, who was born in Cuba, hand rolls cigars at a corporate event in New York, Aug. 16, 2012. Perez learned to hand roll cigars from her father, and rolls at events.
(Earl Wilson/The New York Times)

based in Miami. "There are fewer of us than there are astronauts," she said. But that appears to be changing. Lincoln Salazar, the owner and publisher of Cigar & Spirits Magazine in Aliso

Viejo, Calif., said Cigar Dolls was not so much a gimmick as a reflection of the growing number of women in the industry. "Our own research shows that by the end of the 1990s, less than 6 percent of women were smoking ci-

gars and/or working in the industry, but that number has now increased to less than 15 percent," Salazar said. "Many young, savvy and intellectual women in their 20s and 30s are beginning to smoke cigars. They see it as something with a

lot more sex appeal than cigarettes; it's more of a luxury item to them, a real lifestyle choice."

As Perez tells it, cigars have been more a way of life in her family than a lifestyle choice.

Her grandfather Manuel Perez Sr. worked as a cigar roller in a factory in Havana. When Perez was a baby, she said, her grandparents, parents and two siblings all left Cuba with her and settled in northern New Jersey.

Her father, Manuel Jr., well schooled in the craft, was soon rolling cigars in their backyard and distributing them to family members and friends.

"I remember my uncles sitting around at Sunday dinner with messy cigars hanging out of their mouths," Perez recalled. "It was kind of a normal, very mundane way of life."

One day, Perez approached her father.

"I was about 9 years old and I asked him why he was always playing with this garbage in the backyard." □

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Noord	587-0009
Sta. Cruz	585-4710
Savaneta	584-7000
San Nicolas	584-5000

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Police	100
Fire Dept.	115
Fire Dept. II	582-1108
Police Tipline	11141
Hospital	527-4000

Oranjestad

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Police	582-4000

San Nicolas

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BGD San Nicolas	584-1606
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Tel: 583-3808
Narcotics Anonymous
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Foundation Amor pa Prohimo
Tel: 583-3354 / 586-6976
Women in Difficulties Foundation
Tel: 583-5400

Ex-NFL star Michael Strahan becomes Kelly Ripa's co-host

By **FRAZIER MOORE**
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The only worry on Michael Strahan's mind when he made his entrance Tuesday as the new co-host of "Live!": "Don't trip," he summed up after the show.

He didn't.

When Kelly Ripa introduced him, the gap-toothed former football player jogged onto the morning show set and gathered her up in a bear hug, lifting her off her feet.

"When I was hugging Kelly, that's when I was calming down," Strahan explained. The rest of the hour was clearly a snap for him and for Ripa, who was getting a permanent partner nine months after Regis Philbin-retired from the show and after having welcomed Strahan and 58 other guests in the chair beside her.

Taking his seat on Tuesday, the former New York Giant joked that it felt "comfy, like it was molded for my body."

Strahan was relaxed, amiable and playful, and drew "ahhhs" from women in the studio audience when he presented Ripa with a dozen red roses.

"It's so nice to have a co-host literally sweep you off your feet," Ripa told viewers, "and I know that he can bench press me if he wanted to."

Maybe his arrival was fulfilling a prophecy. Ripa played a clip of Strahan's first appearance on the show in 2008, shortly after the Giants had won the Super Bowl.

Philbin asked Strahan what he would want to do after retiring from football, and Strahan said that Philbin's job looked pretty good.

"I was joking," Strahan said on Tuesday, "and I'm glad the joke came true."

Strahan's hiring has been an open secret for the past two weeks.

His selection was made official a couple of minutes into what, since November, had gone by the stripped-down title "Live! With Kelly" and now rechristened "Live! With Kelly and Michael."

Or rather, "live! with kelly and michael." Eyeing the brand-new all-lowercase logo during a commercial break, the co-hosts pondered whether the first letters of their names would look better capitalized. □



Former football player Michael Strahan, right, poses Kelly Ripa on the set of the newly named "Live! with Kelly and Michael" on Tuesday, Sept. 4, 2012 in New York.
Associated Press



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In 'H+' a possible blueprint for digital series

JAKE COYLE

AP Entertainment Writer
NEW YORK (AP) — How much does a good Web series cost?

That's been an evolving but constant question as digital series multiply. Increasingly, Internet-based series aspire to television-level quality, while trying to get by on Web-sized budgets.

But this has mainly meant that most Web series look shoddy. Fast and cheap has brought a rise in talk-show style productions, particularly among YouTube's channels and Yahoo's original programming. Comedy, less reliant on production value, is also less expensive, a truism proven by Zach Galifianakis' "Between Two Ferns," which flourished with merely a guest and two potted plants.

Drama, though, has always been a more costly proposition. On the Web, the economics usually just haven't added up.

Enter "H+," a digital series produced by Bryan Singer, the director of "The Usual Suspects" and "X-Men," as well as the executive producer of one of those high-price TV dramas, "House." The sci-fi "H+" is an ambitious, 48-part show with clear intentions of raising the bar on digital series and bringing a higher standard of production value to the Web.

"There were always different forms of short comedic programming (online), but



This image released by Warner Premiere shows Melvin Abston as Lee Martin, left, and Nikki Crawford as Julie Martin in a scene from the new sci-fi series called "H+ The Digital Series." Made with a budget of just under \$2 million, the 48-part series by filmmaker Bryan Singer has some of the best production value the Web has yet seen.

Associated Press

I primarily come out of narrative drama or action adventure," says Singer. "So for me, I wanted us to try to explore something more cinematic in the Internet space — something that would be very stylized, with a high production value, but at the same time be structured for the Internet." The series, produced by Warner Premiere, debuted on YouTube in August and updates with a new 4- to 7-minute episode every Wednesday, a pace that will take its run into January. Its production budget was less than \$2 million, a fairly remarkable sum considering the series is 255 minutes in total and includes action

scenes, visual effects and international settings.

By stretching every dollar of its budget and managing to achieve a production value far above most Web fare, "H+" could provide a blueprint for an industry striving to make hits with peanuts.

"We somehow managed to pull it off," says director Stewart Hendler, who helmed the 2009 horror film "Sorority Row." "We kind of referred to ourselves as the biggest student film in history."

"H+" is set in a near future where nearly everyone has a chip installed in their brains that blends the Internet with their minds. People

scroll through data and make phone calls with the flick of the wrist, toggling an interface laid over eyesight. But a virus has suddenly spread through the device, immediately killing a third of the population.

With obvious inspiration from "Lost," the series shifts back and forth in time, gathering stories from before and after the event to piece together why it happened. The series is meant to be nonlinear, leaving episode order choice up to the viewer. (A sliding timeline helps chart to the plot.) The series, written by John Cabrera ("Gilmore Girls") and Cosimo De Tommaso, was originally pitched in

2008 to Singer's Bad Hat Harry production company as a TV series. At the time, the Web series outlook was fairly bleak, but "H+" now arrives amid a land rush led by Hulu, Netflix, YouTube and Yahoo, including names like Tom Hanks, Ben Stiller, Jerry Seinfeld and Richard Linklater. Anthony Zuiker, the creator of "CSI," will this fall premiere a 90-minute cybercrime drama for Yahoo.

"It's been incredibly fortuitous," says Hendler. "Web series now have more legitimacy."

But we still feel like this project is a lot higher end of polish and scope than the stuff that's coming out. It's doing exactly what we wanted it to in a space that now seems like it's got more attention focused on it."

An early choice that paid dividends was decamping to Santiago, Chile, where the country's varied geography offered stand-ins for the script's international locations. Hendler, whom Singer picked partially based on his ability to wring high production value out of TV commercial he directed, led a 29-day shoot that covered 54 different locations. The shoot was split up, though, between four weeks of threadbare, simple scenes, and a one week in which the crew size tripled and the larger set pieces were filmed. Those larger "scope moments" were sprinkled out across the 48 episodes.

"That's an old (Roger) Corman philosophy: Shoot the drama, get really good actors," says Singer. "And then for the epic stuff, just make sure you parcel enough for your visual effects and your big set pieces."

"H+" isn't the first digital series to take lessons from the low-budget, independent filmmakers of the '60s and '70s. But its successes could point the way for further dramatic forays on the Web. "I'm super proud of what we got done for this money," says Hendler, who also recently directed a five-part Halo series to debut in October. □

'Flashdance' to dance on Broadway next summer

MARK KENNEDY

AP Drama Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — "Flashdance" is coming to Broadway. Producers said Tuesday that the stage adaptation of the 1983 hit movie about a working-class Pittsburgh girl with dreams of becoming a professional ballet dancer hopes to boogie into New York in August 2013.

Sergio Trujillo, the choreographer of "Jersey Boys," "The Addams Family" and "Memphis," will direct and choreograph "Flashdance — The Musical."

It features a book by Robert Cary and original screenplay co-writer Tom Hedley, music by Robbie Roth and lyrics by Cary and Roth. The film starred Jennifer Beals.

Producers say it has been "substantially rewritten and completely restaged" following its short-lived debut in London in 2010. A separate company will begin a national tour in January 2013 in Pittsburgh. □



In this film publicity image released by Paramount Pictures, a scene is shown from the 1983 film, "Flashdance."

Associated Press

The GOP Fact Vacuum



CHARLES M. BLOW
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TAMPA, Fla. — Honesty is a lost art. Facts are for losers. The truth is dead. Pick one.

Whatever the term of art, they all signal a dark turn, and, this week, the Republican Party took that turn with reckless abandon. Lying is certainly nothing new in politics. One could even argue that it's fundamental to politics. Saying incredible things in a credible way is the art; using math of vapors to sell dreams of smoke is the craft.

But Paul Ryan's acceptance speech on Wednesday took things up a notch.

Sally Kohn, a contributor to Fox News, said:

"Ryan's speech was an apparent attempt to set the world record for the greatest number of blatant lies and misrepresentations slipped into a single political speech. On this measure, while it was Romney who ran the Olympics, Ryan earned the gold."

Business Insider called it "factually shaky." A Washington Post blog called it a "breathtakingly dishonest speech." Salon's Joan Walsh said the speech was "stunning for its dishonesty" and contained "brazen lies." Jonathan Cohn at The New Republic used the headline: "The Most Dishonest Convention Speech ... Ever?" You get the picture.

So much was written about this and other Republican attempts to distort and deny the truth this week. But I'm beginning to worry that many Americans are growing weary of isolating the lies, coming as they did in torrents. The Romney campaign seems to be banking on this fatigue and counting on The Fourth Estate being reduced to little more than a fifth wheel in the political zeitgeist. One of its pollsters said this week that the campaign would not be dictated by fact-checkers.

Romney's speech at the convention on Thursday avoided the flat-out falseness of Ryan's, containing what FactCheck.org called only a "few bits of exaggeration and puffery." The greatest transgression Thursday night was the bizarre scene of Uncle Clint babbling back and forth with an empty chair that contained an invisible President Barack Obama.

But Romney's restraint does not erase the damage already done.

Mediaste's Tommy Christopher looked at the fact-checking site PolitiFact's tallies on Aug. 10 and found that:

"Mitt Romney's statements have been judged Mostly False, False or Pants on Fire 46 percent of the time, versus only 29 percent for President Obama. In the Pants on Fire category alone, Romney is more than four times as likely to suffer trouser immolation than the President. Nearly 1 in 10 statements by Romney earned flaming slacks, versus 1 out of every 50 for Obama."

On Friday, PolitiFact still had Romney's statements as Mostly False, False or Pants on Fire 42 percent of the time, compared with 27 percent of the time for Obama.

Propaganda is one thing; prevarication is another.

There is some degree of myth-making and truth-stretching in every campaign, but the extent to which Republicans have embraced ignobility in this campaign is astounding. They have used their convention podium to unleash a whole lot of half-truths, so many that fact-checkers have been working overtime. But trying to chase down every lie is like trying to catch every bug in a log. It's almost impossible.

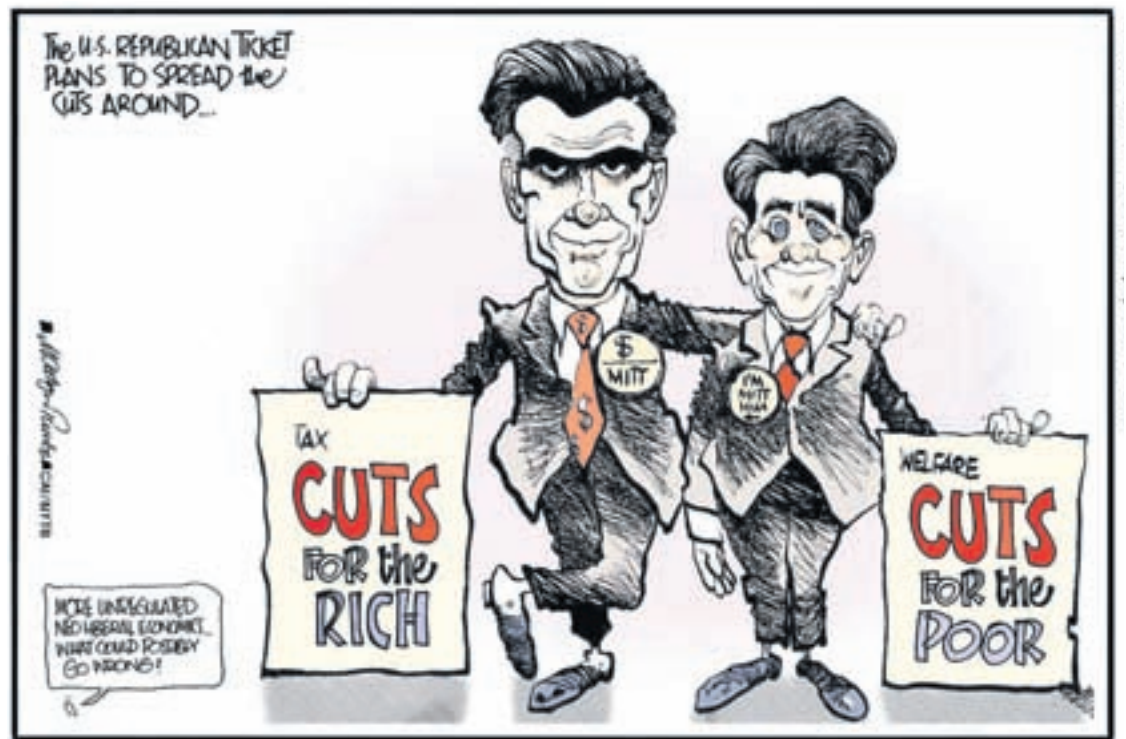
If the news media has to pour so much energy into fact-checking, which is noble and necessary, I worry that the big picture gets short shrift. The convention itself was shockingly low on vision and high on venom.

Yet the candidates are virtually tied in most polls. What does this portend for the republic? I worry deeply about this, not simply because I work at a newspaper, but because I am an American. If we allow our leaders to completely abandon any semblance of honesty, what do we have left? When rancid disinformation stands in the space where actual information should be, what will grow?

And how can a party that incessantly repeats the mantra that our rights were granted by God repeatedly violate a basic tenet of almost every religion: truth-telling? What does it mean when a party that trafficks in American greatness trades in human horridness?

Romney long ago demonstrated that he was willing to do anything and take any position — even if they contradicted previous ones — to make it to the White House. And while that may be fine for him, it shouldn't be fine with us.

We deserve better and should demand better. We deserve better than a weather vane candidacy that doesn't care whether it's being candid. We deserve better than a party and a presidential aspirant so wanton that they refuse to let facts get in the way of a fairy tale. □



Rosie Ruiz Republicans



PAUL KRUGMAN
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Remember Rosie Ruiz? In 1980 she was the first woman to cross the finish line at the Boston Marathon — except it turned out that she hadn't actually run most of the race, that she sneaked onto the course around a mile from the end. Ever since, she has symbolized a particular kind of fraud, in which people claim credit for achieving things they have not, in fact, achieved.

And these days Paul Ryan is the Rosie Ruiz of American politics.

This would have been an apt comparison even before the curious story of Ryan's own marathon came to light. Still, that's quite a story, so let's talk about it first.

It started when Hugh Hewitt, a right-wing talk-radio host, interviewed Ryan. In that interview, the vice-presidential candidate boasted about his fitness, declaring that he had once run a marathon in less than three hours.

This claim piqued the interest of Runner's World magazine, which noted that marathon times are recorded — and that it was unable to find any evidence of Ryan's accomplishment. It eventually transpired that Ryan had indeed once run a marathon, but that his time was actually more than four hours.

In a statement issued by a spokesman, Ryan tried to laugh the whole thing off as a simple error. But serious runners find that

implausible: the difference between sub-three and over-four is the difference between extraordinary and perfectly ordinary, and it's not something a runner could get wrong, unless he's a fabulist who imagines his own reality. And does suggesting that Ryan is delusional rather than dishonest actually make the situation any better?

Which brings us back to the real issues of this presidential campaign.

Obviously nobody cares how fast Ryan can run, and even his strange marathon misstatement wouldn't be worth talking about in isolation. What makes this incident so striking is, instead, the way it resonates with the essential Rosie-Ruizness of Ryan's whole political persona, which is built around big boasts about accomplishments he hasn't accomplished.

For Ryan, as you may recall, has positioned himself as an icon of truth-telling and fiscal responsibility, while offering policy proposals that are neither honest nor responsible. He calls for huge tax cuts, while proposing specific spending cuts that, while inflicting immense hardship on our most vulnerable citizens, would fall far short of making up for the revenue loss. His claims to reduce the deficit therefore rely on assertions that he would make up for the lost revenue by closing loopholes that he refuses to specify, and achieve further huge spending cuts in ways that he also refuses to specify.

But didn't the Congressional Budget Office evaluate Ryan's plan and conclude that it would indeed reduce the deficit? I'm glad you asked that. You see, the budget office didn't actually evaluate his plan, because there weren't enough details. Instead, it let Ryan specify paths for future spending and revenue, while noting — in what sounds to me like a

hint of snark — that "No proposals were specified that would generate that path."

So Ryan basically told the budget office to assume that his plan would slash the deficit, then claimed the resulting report as vindication of his deficit-slashing claims. Sorry, but that's the policy equivalent of sneaking into a marathon near the finish line, then claiming victory.

Still, Mitt Romney, not Ryan, is the presidential candidate, although that's sometimes hard to remember. So how does Romney/Ryan differ from Ryan alone? It's worse. Like the Ryan plan, the Romney plan offers huge tax breaks to corporations and the wealthy, while pledging to offset these cuts by closing unspecified loopholes; but Romney adds to the implausibility by also demanding higher defense spending and eliminating the Medicare cost savings contained in Obamacare. Realistically, the Romney plan would explode the deficit, not reduce it.

Yet Romney boasts about his fiscal responsibility; in Tampa he accused President Barack Obama of hurting the economy with big deficits (while also declaring that Obama was destroying jobs by cutting military spending — go figure), then declared that "We will cut the deficit and put America on track to a balanced budget."

Yep, he's another Rosie Ruiz Republican.

So what is this election about? To be sure, it's about different visions of society — about Medicare versus Vouchercare, about preserving the safety net versus destroying it. But it's also a test of how far politicians can bend the truth. This is surely the first time one of our major parties has run a campaign so completely fraudulent, making claims so at odds with the reality of its policy proposals. But if the Romney/Ryan ticket wins, it won't be the last. □

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